No. 555.

STATE EXPRESS CIGARETTES

No. 444.

CARRY ON! *WITH A "JOHN BULL" PEN. COUPON ON PAGE 11.*

JOHN BULL

VOL. XXVI. No. 697. | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1919. | TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

END QUARTER-DAY ANXIETY.

Why tolerate the worries, inconveniencies and restrictions of a tenant, when the "City Life" simple system of easy instalment payments enables you to enjoy the rights and privileges of ownership?

Full particulars free from D.B.J.B.

CITY LIFE Assurance Co., Ltd.

(*D. Bailey, Gen. Manager*)

6, PAUL ST., FINSBURY, E.C.2

Resting, but Watchful

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

THE MORAL OF THE STRIKE

BY HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

Sugar Ration Reduced!

Milk Scarce and Dear!

In Milkmaid

CAFÉ AU LAIT

you get both the Sugar and Milk blended in correct proportions with the finest pure coffee. Plentiful supplies at all Grocers and Stores.

CASH PRICES

1/8, 10½d., & 5½d. per tin

If you prefer Cocoa get Milkmaid

MILK-COCOA

Finest Cocoa, purest Sugar and Milk, needing hot water only. On sale everywhere.

CASH PRICES

1/4, 8½d., & 4½d. per tin

BOTH PACKED BY NESTLÉ'S

A Short Fight
MILTON *v* INFLUENZA

It takes less than three minutes for Milton to knock out the Influenza germ. We have overwhelming proof of this fact. Tests by the best known bacteriologists in Britain have proved that a teaspoonful of Milton in a tumbler of water (cold, tepid, or warm) will annihilate the Influenza germ at once.

In the case of INFLUENZA, an ounce of prevention is worth several tons of cure. Use Milton as a preventive—because if once the germ gains lodgment you are in for serious trouble. You may get a cure, or pneumonia or many other things—or a funeral.

Don't get Influenza

You *can* avoid it—easily—simply. Milton as a germ killer is many times more effective than carbolic acid. But you can use Milton for throat, for nose, on food—in scores of ways, with complete satisfaction, as thousands are doing daily. During the last deadly epidemic thousands of people found complete immunity from "Flu," even when surrounded by infection, by using Milton. If the thousands who succumbed to its dread visitation had known of Milton (and *used* it) they would be here to-day. You don't want to join them just yet? Then don't get Influenza; you *can* avoid it.

Does 101 Things
1/3 & 2/6 BOTTLES.
Of all Dealers.

How is it done?

Don't let Influenza overtake you—keep ahead of it. It is *so* easy, *so* simple, *so* certain. The germ of Influenza enters the body only through the nose or throat, and in no other way. It lodges in the nostrils or the mouth, and presently is swallowed or inhaled into the system; or you may swallow it with your food.

The Chief Precaution:—

Add a teaspoonful of MILTON to a tumbler of water (tepid or warm if available, but cold will do), or in that proportion. Wash the mouth out with this and gargle the throat two or three times daily, particularly before breakfast and before meals; but any time is good. And spray or snuff some of the mixture up the nostrils twice a day or oftener. (Incidentally, this will cure your cold in the head if you have one.) Any form of sprayer or atomiser is suitable.

Another Precaution:—

Make your food safe against "Flu" infection. Food can be rendered safe (and fresher) by adding MILTON to water (a tablespoon to a pint or in proportion) and washing meat, poultry, game, fish, vegetables or fruit in it before cooking. The natural taste of the food is toned up, and there will be no smell of cooking in the house (isn't that wonderful?), but the important point is, that "Flu" or other germs on the food are exterminated.

A Third Precaution:—

Spray the house, the workroom, the shop, the factory, the hall, the church, with Milton. The effect of this in reducing infection astonishes bacteriologists. Read the surprising facts in the triangle at the foot.

You can easily take these precautions.
DON'T TAKE INFLUENZA

MILTON
ANTISEPTIC.
Get a Bottle to-day.

A startling fact

In a department of the Army Sorting Office at the London General Post Office last winter they were losing clerks at the rate of 10 and 12 every day from Influenza. At the worst stage of the epidemic the Q.M.S. heard of MILTON, bought a bottle, and ordered a gargling parade. The result startled him and the clerks. Daily, from then on, each clerk paraded and gargled with MILTON, and from the first day onwards not a single case of Influenza developed; not one single loss from "Flu" occurred in the staff. Ask the Q.M.S. about it.

and another

In several Lancashire cotton mills they started using MILTON during the epidemic last winter, mixing it with the water that is usually sprayed by Humidifiers through the work-rooms to keep the air damp enough for spinning. The results startled the managements. Influenza disappeared from every mill where MILTON was used. The byeword was

"Where MILTON is, INFLUENZA isn't."

MILTON MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.,
125, Bunhill Row, LONDON, E.C. 64, Wellington Street, GLASGOW. 87 Piccadilly, MANCHESTER

Are you collecting "JOHN BULL" Pen Coupons? See page 11.

JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."
—*Milton.*

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

For forms of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best."—*Pope.*

Vol. XXVI. No. 697. **Week ending Saturday, October 11th, 1919.** **Twopence.**

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Strike.

Our article last week, "They Know Not What They Do," undoubtedly had its effect upon the men—many of whom, to our knowledge, resumed work after reading it, whilst numerous others urged upon their leaders the desirability of settlement.

A Gracious Contemporary.

It is so rarely that leading newspapers acknowledge their indebtedness to JOHN BULL when dealing with public affairs, that we tender our thanks to the *Morning Post* for its gracious reference, in a leading article last week, dealing with the constitution of the proprietary of the *Daily Herald*.

"Plenty of Money."

And that reminds us that at a recent meeting "to further the interests of the *Daily Herald*," Mr. Lansbury stated that "they had had one hundred thousand pounds," adding "and we shall get more." We must keep our eye on the Register of Shareholders.

The Food Controller.

We are no lovers of State Control, but we feel bound to offer our congratulations to Mr. G. H. Roberts on the work of his Department during the strike.

Holding Up Supplies.

By the way, will the Food Controller get in touch with his Shipping brother and inquire into the story which reaches us, that the White Star s.s. *Runic* was recently lying between Calshot and Netley for over a week, laden with provisions, because the authorities could not find a berth for her? Similar accounts reach us from time to time from other ports.

The Wernher Scandal.

Much curiosity exists as to the exact nature of the offences of which Sir Derrick Julius Wernher was found guilty by Court-Martial. We have reasons to believe that they related to transactions with the enemy, but possibly we may be enlightened *when*, and *if*, his application for discharge from bankruptcy comes before the Court.

The Retort Direct.

One of our readers relates an amusing instance of repartee which he heard in Hyde Park the other Sunday. One of the crowd, who had been particularly demonstrative during the meeting, asked the Free Thought orator: "Do you mean to tell me that when I am dead I fade absolutely away and am done with for ever?"—to which direct query came the prompt reply, "I sincerely hope so, sir." There are no Parliamentary niceties in the Park.

"F" Company's Pensions.

Isn't it about time the Government recognised once and for all the claims of these postal workers in the war? Their case appears unanswerable.

Strikes and the Weather.

During the duration of the Strike the Clerk of the Weather was particularly kind to the public, who, but for his good behaviour, would probably have taken things with much less resignation.

Real "Kultur."

One of our readers sends us a photograph of the interior of a German Prisoner of War Camp in the West of England, showing two of the occupants reading this journal. They have evidently made up their minds to discard the old sources of "Kultur."

Government Economy.

A well-known West End solicitor recently forwarded a cheque for some legacy duty to the Inland Revenue, Somerset House, and sent us the envelope containing the receipt. It is made of extremely thick and expensive paper, and measures fifteen inches by six!

THE "DEUTSCHLAND."

Vessel opening in London on Monday Next.

Don't forget that the great German submarine is at the Temple Pier, Thames Embankment, as from Monday next the 13th—strikes and other special causes, of course, permitting! Meanwhile, the railway trouble has interfered with the despatch of souvenirs—a full illustrated catalogue of which will shortly be ready. Owing to the increased expenses incidental to the London exhibition, it will be impossible to continue the system of half-price coupons, the uniform charge for admission being 1s., *children* 6d.

Those Indemnities.

We shall be glad to know whether, in view of Germany's rapid recovery of her industrial prosperity, the Government is taking steps to ensure a first substantial instalment of the attenuated indemnity provided for by the Peace Treaty.

British Ministers Abroad.

We hope the Government is taking steps to see that there is no German blood in either the Foreign Ministers and Consuls now being appointed—or their wives.

The Sugar Commission.

We don't quite like the name of Mr. Rünge, who has been appointed Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply; nor does that of Mr. Sieber, the Assistant Manager under Mr. Rünge, fall sweetly upon our ears. Still, of course they may be patriots to the backbone.

The English Sunday.

Here's a prescription for curing its proverbial dullness: Take the *National News* in the morning (not necessarily on an empty stomach) and the *Sunday Evening Telegram* after tea. The effect will be magical.

"Circumstances" Alter Cases.

More than one British wife of a German, stranded in that country, asks us whether, apropos of the return of Princess Henry of Pless, there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. We are afraid the answer is in the affirmative.

"Ditto."

On the other hand, let us get rid of Hun wives still in this country, and whose husbands are already in the Fatherland or elsewhere!

The Argentine.

A correspondent informs us that "the Argentine is picking up splendidly from the effects of the war, and they shortly expect a German immigration of three or four millions, for whom they are preparing a scheme of land settlement, etc." What are *our* Reconstruction authorities doing?

Mr. Wilson.

At the time of going to press we hear, with much regret, of the grave condition of the President of the United States—and we need scarcely say that, however much we have felt justified in criticising his policy which, after all, has erred on the side of a too solicitous regard for the interests of his own country—we sincerely wish him a speedy recovery

Strike Conditions.

Although owing to the railway trouble we have been compelled to reduce the size of this week's journal, in order to facilitate transport arrangements, we have done our best to compensate readers by excluding a very large number of advertisements.

Local Limerick.

There was a strike leader named Thomas;
When the Germans no longer could bomb us,
He then took a hand
To endanger the land—
May the Lord keep such enemies from us!

Gratitude.

On a recent Sunday the manager and six canteen hands were demobbed or discharged from Wellington Barracks after several years' service, women being put in their places. If there was to be a change, "why," demands the wife of one of the men, "were not discharged soldiers put in? Surely they are before the women."

The Sad Sea Waves.

Those who go down to the sea in ships are also saddened by the profiteer. On all ocean-going passenger steamers, wines, spirits, beer, tobacco, carried for consumption aboard, are acquired by the shipping companies, duty free. We have never heard of a ship on which passengers receive the benefit of this privilege. *Au contraire*, they usually pay more for their drink and tobacco than people at home.

What's This?

A gunner on board H.M.S. *Phaeton*, now stationed at Bremen, tells us that "we were brought here in a hurry to keep guard over Germany's ships, half of her mercantile marine being supposed to belong to the Dutch. We look like getting a warm time, as there are several large forts with 12 in. and 8 in. guns, and we are the only English ship here. We are lying right across the river Weiser so as to prevent their getting out, and only last night they sent a note telling us to clear away, but our Captain refused. They have had the guns trained on us all day." We thought those forts were to be dismantled.

Behind the Door.

There was a rumpus in the Southampton Town Council the other day, because during a discussion about the pay of the local police, including the salary of the Chief Constable, someone discovered a "Bobby" hidden behind the door. Caught in the act of taking notes, and dragged into the daylight, Inspector Kennett explained that some of his men had asked him to let them know what the Council did in the matter—so, fearing to trust his memory, he had "jotted" down a few particulars. Pressed, he stated that he was present on the suggestion of the Chief Constable, whose salary was also under discussion. We fancy Inspector Kennett's second explanation was the more authentic.

Nailsworth's Nuggets.

Some of Nailsworth's Magistrates seem by way of being real nuggets. There can be no doubt whatever in the mind of anyone reading the evidence against John Davis, of Windsor Edge, and Reginald Ind, of Avening, that the men thoroughly deserved punishment. They fastened four horses to a trunk, and when the hind one fell down, they uged forward the three in front with the result that the poor beast was dragged some distance along the ground. When a humane woodman got it up it had a wound on the shoulder 5½ inches long and 1½ inches wide, and another wound 2½ inches wide. The magistrates "administered a caution to defendants to exercise more consideration to horses in future." Animals will never be safe from brutes as long as such brutes are let off.

Yankee Gullery.

A Miss Kate Friend, lecturing at Baylor University, U.S.A., declared that "the water drinking Americans fought with a ferocity and energy astounding to the rum-drinking English and the wine sipping French, and terrifying to the beer swilling Huns." And some of her gum-chewing audience believed her.

Wool Profits.

Somebody at Bradford talks about tops. Tops is the rough wool, after being scoured and combed. In 1914, the top-master was satisfied with a profit of ½d. per pound upon his work. To-day, his profit is 3s. 6d. a pound, an increase of 8,400 per cent. The spinners' makings are similarly hideous and unholy, while the Government, getting its wool for 8s. a pound, allows the civilian to be ramped out of 12s. for the same stuff.

£1,000 FOOTBALL PRIZE.

See page iii. of Cover.

The Golden Ballot.

The Golden Ballot is being organised at 8, Marble Arch, to provide settlements for disabled sailors and soldiers. One of these settlements is already in being and will soon be ready to take in 100 tuberculous cases. Five shilling tickets for this ballot provide the privilege of helping an admirable scheme, which is under the patronage of Admiral Lord Beatty, and the possibility of winning some of the most attractive prizes ever offered to the public.

"Gang Agley."

A considerable number of readers have been puzzled by the phrase in our advertisement columns last week, "Watch a 'Wolsey' Window Win." It had reference to an attractive prize competition for traders which we intended to announce in that issue of the paper, but which, owing to the railway strike, has been postponed. However, as soon as things become normal we shall launch this scheme—which should be of interest to all members of the trading community.

To the Disabled.

Hull fishermen and trawler owners combine to offer 400 disabled ex-Service men, aged from 20 to 28, a training as fishers. It would last six to eight weeks, two of the disabled being taken aboard in place of one ordinary hand. Pay while learning, £1 a week, good food, and one penny in the pound on all nett profits. Men who can cook decently are also invited. Pay will be doubled upon efficiency, and a "live" man may become skipper in six years. Ambitious disabled men should write to the Secretary, Hull Fishermen's Union, Hessle Road, Hull.

Charity!

Sir John Hayward's Charity, Rochester, is another institution requiring caretakers, man and wife, who must be without "incumbrance," the Secretary's euphuism for "children." Man and wife's duties include the customary caretaking and cleaning, with a bit of garden work thrown in for him, and she, in case of need, must also act as nurse. And the wages (this is where you sit back and breathe hard) are:—"12s. per week with 4s. bonus, use of two rooms and joint use of kitchen and larder." A nice snug little income for two hard-working souls, isn't it?

Postmarks: British and Others.

One of the most irritating things in life is the British postmark. It is the most messed-up spectacle in postmarks the world over. Only rarely is it possible to tell where a letter has originated or the time at which it has been posted, so that, in many cases, important evidence for business purposes is entirely destroyed by official carelessness.

The Incapables.

That Appointments Department, which cuts out advertisements from Birmingham papers and advises officers to answer them—"care of Box number so-and-so"—has been at it for some time. An officer, demobilised in May, says that all the assistance received by him from it has been about a dozen of such senseless cuttings. A Department that can do no better should be closed at a moment's notice.

For the Civil Service.

Ex-Service men desiring to join the Civil Service under the Reconstruction scheme must pass an examination in London, Edinburgh, or Dublin. They pay their own fares, which are (or used to be, when there were any) rather heavy for a man from the Midlands or the North. On top of that, a candidate who passes the examination must also travel to town for an interview before being appointed. In bare justice, the Civil Service Commissioners might issue a travel warrant for that second journey.

Good Lad.

We have a fine little letter from a Boy Scout, of Bradford. On the appeal of his Scoutmaster he gave up thoughts of learning a trade and volunteered for coast-watching, also signed on for service aboard ship. He put in 3½ years' work at 2s. a week, doing his bit like a man. He is now refused any training because the Labour Exchange tells him he is only a civilian. He thinks this is unjust, for he wants a chance of getting on, and would also like a badge or certificate to mark his services. "But," he adds, "I am not grumbling, for the little I did I did willingly." Don't you think such fine lads merit recognition?

The Canadian Market.

A voice from Calgary, which is in Canada, complains of the lack of British enterprise in that city. There are six picture houses, and in six weeks only one British subject was shown (apart from topicals) and that solitary one was handled by American producers. The only sheet music—songs, dances, and so on—in the shops is the American, and so are nearly all the gramophone records. Our dealers in these lines probably have an agent out there—an American firm who boost stuff of their own country. Yet there is a big market for British productions with Canadians, who yearn for the real thing from the Old Country.

Robbery Under Rule.

If you happen to be a member of the National Amalgamated Approved Society, which includes the Pearl Assurance Company and the "Hearts of Oak" Society, you have arrived at "the right shop for morals." Having been sentenced for a juvenile offence to a term of detention in a Borstal Institution, from which after a few months he was unconditionally released, a Lancashire lad has now received notice of expulsion from the Society, who, in the interests of public morality, are prepared to confiscate his accumulated subscriptions and rob him of his benefit rights. All according to rule, no doubt, but the rule is devoid of honour.

Local Limerick.

(*A showman at Ealing was fined for showing "The Ugliest Woman on Earth" without paying the Entertainment Tax.*)

There was down at Ealing, on show,
Earth's Ugliest Face, so they vow;
Fined for missing the taxes,
The showman's wrath waxes,
And that face is no prettier now.

There and Back.

From Lincolnshire comes a natty story of the weekly adventures of a motor-lorry belonging to one of the services and manned by men in uniform. Here is one day's record. It carried a load of two cases of empty bottles. The ferry-boat at New Holland was delayed while it went aboard. On arriving at Hull, it was lifted ashore by the Corporation crane, proceeded to the brewery, got two full cases in exchange for the empty ones, returned aboard, was conveyed back to New Holland, and went off triumphant with its mighty freight. You will be prepared to hear that such absurdities are quite the usual thing.

The Coal Man.

This seems like a fresh start of the coal trouble. It comes from the village of Herringfleet, near Lowestoft, and we quote our reader's own words, for they are expressive: "We are only farm labourers' wives, but here we are with no coals, turned three weeks. Sometimes it is 1 cwt. in a month, sometimes 7 weeks; so it has been all through last winter and this summer. If we have a Coal Controller in Lowestoft he must be asleep. Our coal man is always carting bricks, and when we ask for coal he says 'they' will not let him." Is the Controller really asleep?

A Warrior Bold.

A very interesting photograph is sent to us by Captain J. S. Browne from Abu Sueir, in Egypt. "This," he says in a covering letter, enclosing a photo of a cleverly drawn sketch of the figure, dog and lettering on our cover, "is the nacelle of my Handley-Page machine, which has just been flown from France to this deserted spot. My machine was an old warrior over the Belgian coast in days gone by. It is not what one might call a new machine. It wanted grit and determination to get her to Egypt, so what better picture could one paint on it but the good old British JOHN BULL? It has been admired in France, Italy, Greece, and North West Africa during a trip which occupied 22 days, and there are more countries to show it to yet." We are much obliged to Captain Browne for his free, unsolicited, and novel advertisement.

Brutes of Boys.

At Newtown, Montgomeryshire, three brothers who herded a number of sheep in a corner of a field and then cut off their ears, afterwards coating the sheep with tar, have been "bound over" by the Magistrates. Our hope is that they were also turned over by their parents and well whacked.

What's Wrong at Greenwich?

If things are exactly as they should be at Greenwich Royal Hospital School we are sadly mistaken—which is unusual. Our impression is that the pupils would be none the worse for a little more homely comfort, and the officials all the better for a little added politeness towards parents, who are naturally interested in the welfare of their children.

An Ex-Soldier's Plight.

A Cardiff reader who, though over 50 years of age, has done his bit in the war, complains of the action of the local Committee of Referees who have certified him as "unfit for work," and therefore disentitled to the Unemployment Donation. It is true that the poor fellow is partially crippled with rheumatism, which his Army experience did not improve, but his contention is that if the Labour Exchange had handled his case with intelligent sympathy they might have found him the sort of job that would entail no undue strain. Instead they have thrown up the sponge, and left the ex-soldier to his fate. It is not good enough.

The Irresponsibles.

Until regulations are so altered that the Post Office Department is compelled to pay for damage done to things in their care—damage recoverable in the courts of law—a lot of us will continue to receive parcels in a condition suggesting that they have been kicked about to provide the P.M.G. and his merry men with material for games of football. Indignant recipients are generally fobbed off, on inquiry, with an official letter admitting the damage, stating that the cause cannot be ascertained, and refusing compensation *vide* regulations. "A few days' ago, my wife," says a reader, "had a costume sent down to Brighton, in a heavy cardboard box, ruined by the cover being penetrated by a quantity of grease, probably butter." And neither in this nor thousands of other cases does the Post Office care a button.

PROTECT YOUR HOMES
by registering under our
Free Fire Insurance Scheme.
For Registration Forms see page 12.

Not Parted.

There is, we find, a widespread notion that an old married couple, obliged to enter a workhouse, are parted as they pass the portals of the poor-house. For the comforting of sad old folk in such dread, we may point out that there is a Poor Law Order directly stating that a man and wife, over 60, shall be permitted to sojourn together, in sleeping apartments of their own. There are, let it be said quietly, couples who prefer to live apart when in "the House."

Unmerciful.

A member of the Dumbartonshire Police force, granted a day off, spent it in Stirling. After resuming duty, he was accused of having been intoxicated in Stirling. No particulars were supplied, despite his protest. He asked to be retained on the strength of the force, and went into the Army. But very soon he, a man of 17 years' good service, was summarily dismissed from the police. To-day, he is refused an inquiry, and refused a certificate of the long service he has faithfully performed. We suggest that the Dumbartonshire police are acting mercilessly—if not unjustly.

Ilfracombe "Justice."

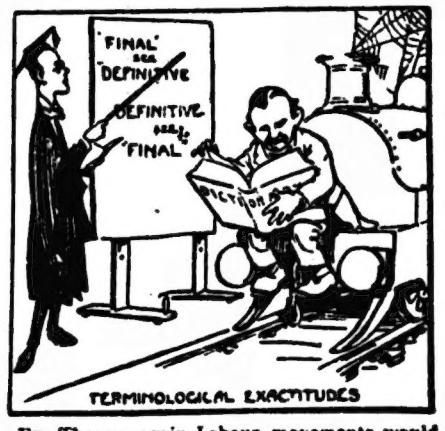
Having imposed fines of £7 on each of two motor-cyclists charged before them with exceeding the speed limit, the Ilfracombe Magistrates turned their attention to a case of gross cruelty to animals on the part of a dairyman at Comyn Farm. On the representation of an Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. that eleven sheep had been found in a field, sick, unattended and literally eaten alive by maggots, the Justices decided that the case, if not quite so serious as the motoring offence, was still a bad one—so they fined the culprit £4, with another £2 for similar brutality to a cow. A worse travesty of justice it is difficult to imagine.

Cooking the Consumer's Goose.

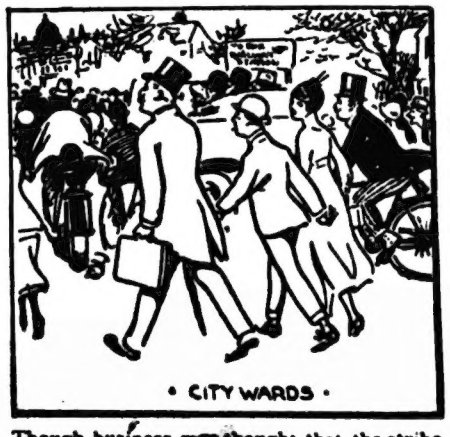
As all over the place, the hire-cost of gas-cookers is being increased, as well as the price of gas. These cookers are the means of consuming, to the benefit of the companies, gas which would not otherwise be used. A Portsmouth housewife tells us that in her case the cooker rental has been jumped up by the Portsea Island Co. from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 9d. a quarter. If a Company, as, say, the South Metropolitan, have to pay an extra £340,000 a year as the bill of Smillie's miners, it is obvious the cost must go on the consumer in the price of gas; but there is no justification whatever for profiteering old stock gas cookers upon which capital expended must have been turned over time and time again.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

To prove once for all that Disorder *shan't* rule,
The railway men strikers have played the John Bull.



Ere Thomas again Labour movements would lead,
He should study to understand what he may read.



Though business men thought that the strike was a pity,
They cheerfully footed it home from the City.

The knowledge that he of all transport the head is
Increases the adamant firmness of Geddes.

Candid Communications.——

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties and—occasionally—Nonentities.

To the Right Hon. Winston S. Churchill, M.P., Secretary of State for War.

DEAR MR. CHURCHILL,—No doubt you will shortly favour me with your observations in regard to the case of Sir Derrick Wernher, Bart., to which I have felt it my duty to call public attention. There is no pretence that in these matters the Crown acts upon its own initiative, and I am, I think, entitled to know upon whose advice the sentence of a general Court-Martial, cashiering this officer, was reduced to the lesser penalty of dismissal from the service. I am loth to conclude that in the military code there is one law for the man of lofty social pretensions and another for him of lowlier estate. Won't you explain? JOHN BULL.

To the Bishop of London.

MY LORD BISHOP,—I have so often criticised your attitude towards various public questions that it affords me a special pleasure to shake your hand for your manly and patriotic stand against the Railway Strike, which you correctly hit off when you describe it as "a dagger suddenly presented to the nation's heart, more dangerous than any which the enemy could in five years manage to forge either by U-boats, Zeppelins, or frontal attacks." You can be a very good Bishop when you like.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Master Bakers' Association, Salisbury.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN,—Information reaches me from Salisbury that though the master bakers there, as elsewhere, were permitted by the Government to raise the price of bread to the community in order to increase wages, the operative bakers in your town have not benefited a penny since the award was made. This is not only cheating the Government and breaking faith with the community as a whole, but is robbing the men of their just dues and aggravating industrial bitterness by grab and greed which cannot be defended or excused. Perhaps the Food Controller may have something to say on the matter. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. John Godfrey, Reading.

DEAR NONAGENARIAN,—I understand that your excuse for getting married the other day at the age of ninety, to a lady boasting seventy-six summers, was that you were afraid to be alone at night. That nocturnal loneliness should be the motive of *your* marriage excites my interest—and, if I may say so, my curiosity. You might let me know, on the quiet, how you get on, and in due course, all being favourable, I will have a silver mug ready. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Arthur Chilton, D.D., Headmaster, City of London School.

DEAR HEAD,—I find you writing these things of the British officer:—"Uneducated men are captains and majors. Idlers, who could never have succeeded as workers, have found their *metier* in the Army, where one may be idle with impunity." Perhaps your schoolmasterly eye is upon an idler or two in the War Office, but you are miles out of it when applying such untimely strictures to the Army, where you would find, had you done any service, that there is plenty of work for officers, on top of fighting and suffering. As dominie, doctor, and divine, you talk through your halo. JOHN BULL.

To Lieut.-Colonel Sherwood Kelly, V.C., D.S.O.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—That was a splendid example you set to many other willing people in volunteering your services in aid of the railway horses which the strikers left to suffer the agonies of thirst and hunger. The spectacle of the Secretary of the London Branch of the N.U.R. declaring that while the strikers "recognised the humanitarian aspect of the case" they had decided that "the railway authorities must accept the full responsibility for feeding and watering their animals," was enough to sicken the conscience of any feeling man or woman. I thank you and the other volunteers for what you have done in the railway stables, and I cannot doubt that with their hearts, if not with their voices, the horses you have succoured thank you too. JOHN BULL.

To Judge Macklin, County Court, Nelson.

YOUR HONOUR,—There was an application before you for an Ejectment Order against a poor woman, who also owed £9 for rent. You had the fine mercy to consider her troubles and her weak state, and you appealed to the landlord, who offered a month's grace. Six weeks, you suggested—six weeks, rent free. And the landlord said yes, showing himself a real white man. So the poor woman has that time to look about her, and is to pay the rent she owes at the rate of 2s. 6d. a month. Judge, you are a credit to the Bench. JOHN BULL.

To James Boulton, Collier, Market Bosworth.

DEAR JAMES,—"Be sure your sins will find you out," and next time you are in trouble, be a man and face it. I don't suppose you are any worse than a good many others, and I am not sure that the widow who took you to Court was exactly a white-winged angel, but it was clear that her child was yours, and it was mean to shirk the issue. How you must have felt when they brought the baby into Court and showed that one of its ears was deformed exactly like your own I really cannot imagine. Unless you intend to mend your ways—which I hope you will—you had better have that ear amputated.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, M.P., President of the Board of Trade.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,—Commercially, you are a hefty lot. You, I understand, are a Professor of Anatomy and the Principal Elect of a Canadian university—while the Board's newest Secretary, Mr. S. J. Chapman, has for sixteen years been a Professor of Political Economy at Manchester, and so naturally is exactly the sort of man to look after the business affairs of an up-to-date commercial nation. They tell me that, in spite of your important duties here, your friends in Canada are impatient for your return. How we shall get on with a Minister of Commerce who doesn't know the shape of his own stomach, the Lord only knows!

JOHN BULL.

FEVERISH FOLLY.

VISITOR'S UNHAPPY SEASIDE EXPERIENCE.

A distracted husband, whose wife was taken ill with scarlet fever while on holiday at Brightlingsea, was informed that there was no isolation hospital there, and the local authorities had not seen fit to make any arrangements with outside institutions for the reception of infectious cases—so if ever there is an epidemic in the neighbourhood, Heaven help the population! The next suggestion was that on payment of 8s. a day the patient might be received privately at the Colchester Infection Hospital; but like the Jews and the Samaritans, it appeared that Colchester and Brightlingsea had no dealings with one another. The husband next appealed to the Medical Officer of Health at Brightlingsea, whose helpful suggestion was that the fever-stricken patient had better remain in seaside lodgings, and he hoped she would soon be better. As a last resort the bewildered visitor appealed to the M.O.H. at Colchester to use his influence with the Infection Hospital authorities to induce them to reconsider their decision; whereupon these amazing gentry perked up and inquired whether, in addition to the husband's undertaking to pay 8s. a day, the Brightlingsea Urban District Council would guarantee the money. To this inquiry a telegraphic reply was received that "the Chairman of the Council was out of town," —therefore "nothing doing." By this time, as good luck would have it, the patient was on the road to recovery, thanks to good nursing and domestic attention, and in spite of the combined tomfoolery of the local powers.

FOOD CONTROL ABSURDITIES.

EX-SOLDIER FORBIDDEN TO SELL POTATOES.

Although engaged in the business for several years before the war, a discharged soldier at Twickenham is prevented from earning a livelihood by the refusal of the Food Control Authorities to grant him a licence for the retail sale of potatoes. There has, apparently, been no attempt to judge the application of the poor fellow on its intrinsic merits, one foolish quibble after another having been raised to defeat the plain justice of the case. It is contended, for instance, that the applicant was never in business on his own account—the truth of the matter being, as a little painstaking inquiry would have proved, that he was engaged by a Spitalfields firm on what was, to all intents and purposes, a partnership agreement, the benefit of which he relinquished to join the Army in 1915. Not content with this unfair attack, the authorities now venture to throw doubt upon the reality of the applicant's military service, although, as a matter of fact, he holds a discharge from the Army, showing that after 254 days with the Forces he was discharged medically unfit. The attitude of the authorities in this case is entirely at variance with the instructions issued to local authorities by the Ministry of Food, which provide that "any person discharged from H.M. Forces since August, 1914, who wishes to establish a new retail business, and who has been engaged in such business prior to joining the Forces, should be granted a licence as a matter of course." There can be no excuse for the wanton evasion of this wholesome rule.

A TIP FOR TENANTS.

LEGAL REMEDY FOR THE "KEY MONEY" SCANDAL.

The other day Mr. Geo. H. Taylor, Managing Director of the Investors' Property Corporation, Ltd., had a small flat to let at Old Ford, and the following is the letter he sent to an applicant.

> I have so many applicants for the above flat that I shall be glad to hear from you how much you would care to pay me for commission for letting you have same.

A couple of days later the flat was knocked down to the highest bidder:

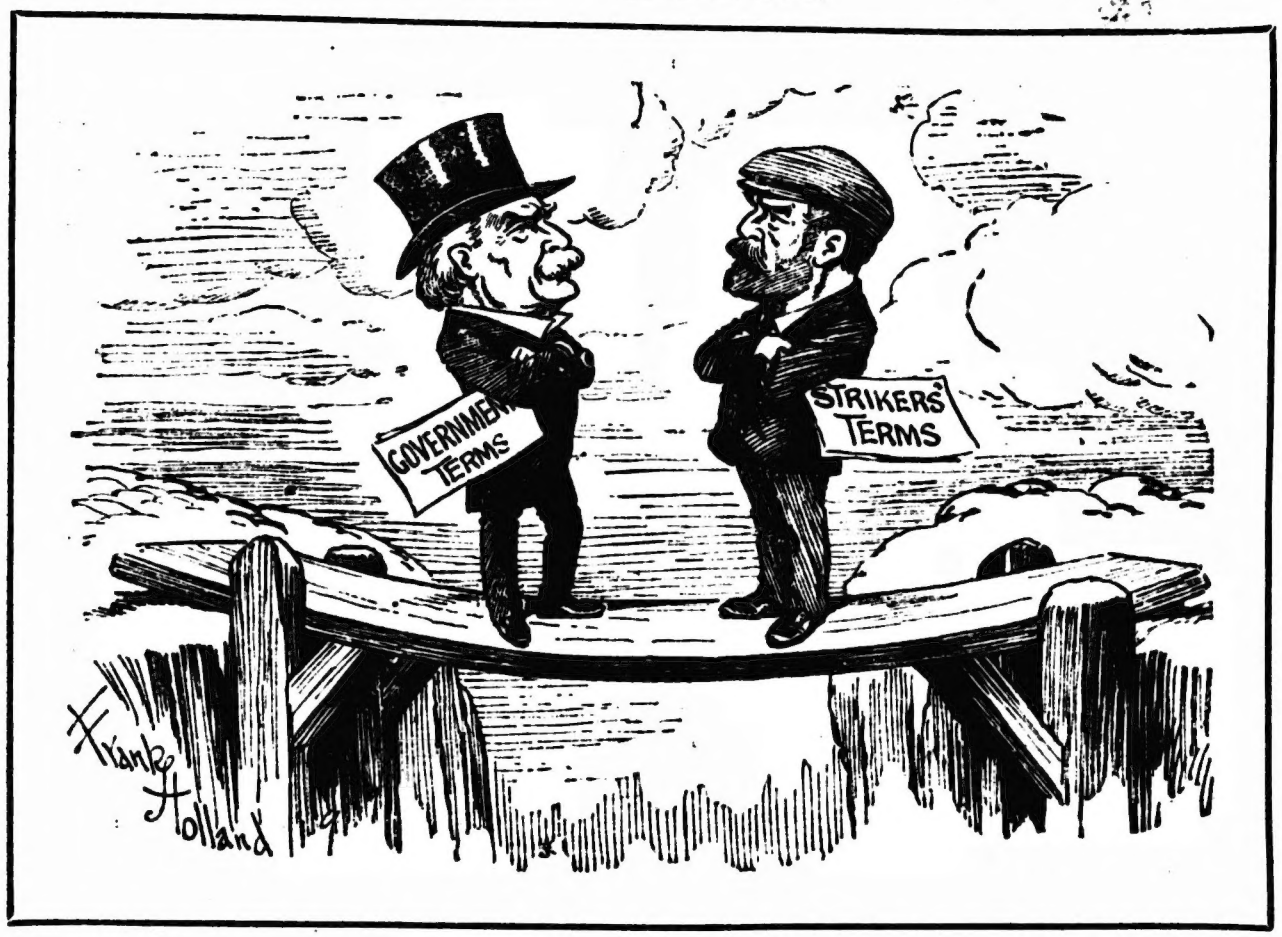
> I have received a considerable increase and therefore have fixed with another applicant.

Now it is high time this sort of thing was stopped, and it is strange that so few tenants appear willing to take advantage of the very distinct safeguard against this form of extortion provided by the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest Act, 1915, Section 2 of which provides:

> A person shall not in consideration of the grant, renewal or continuance of any dwelling house (i.e., a house or part of a house let as a separate dwelling) . . . require the payment of any fine, premium or other like sum in addition to the rent, and where any such payment has been made in respect of any such dwelling house after the 25th day of November, 1915, then *the amount shall be recoverable by the tenant* by whom it was made, from the landlord, and *may without prejudice be deducted from any rent payable by him.*

In other words, an applicant for a house or flat up to the rental of £70 per annum in London and £52 per annum in the provinces may pay any premium the landlord chooses to demand—and, having thus obtained possession, withhold all payment of rent till he has recouped his outlay. *Verb. sap.*

THE BRIDGE.



Who Has Really Given Way?

WHEN ECONOMY IS A CRIME.

RETRENCHMENT AT THE EXPENSE OF WAR HEROES.

Don't tell us that public authorities are never economical! Why, bless our souls, the Lancashire Insurance Committee have just sacked between twenty and thirty discharged soldiers employed at Preston, with a gratuity of £50 a head, all for the sake of saving the taxes and making a good show on the balance sheet. The places of the men dismissed are to be filled by inexperienced "flappers," who, no doubt, will look a lot prettier than wounded soldiers, and who, of course, can be got much cheaper. Most of these men entered the service of the Lancashire Committee at the inception of the National Insurance Act. Although, technically, their appointments were "temporary," they were for all practical purposes of a permanent nature, and on the outbreak of war the Committee recognised this by supplementing the pay of men who joined the Army. On demobilisation, the ex-soldiers, several of them more or less disabled, and one having lost an arm, were reinstated and naturally expected to be permanently retained, and certainly not to be replaced by cheap female labour. Anxious, however, to have their position regularised, they asked that their appointments should be formally confirmed as "permanent" and requested an advance on their wages of £2 18s. 6d. a week. The reply of the Lancashire Insurance Committee took the form of summary dismissal with a solatium of £50 a head to the men affected. The best answer to the plea of economy, the only excuse so far advanced for this heartless proceeding, is in the words of the recent Royal Proclamation on the employment of disabled men, wherein His Majesty expresses the hope that none will be "held back in their performance of this high and solemn obligation, either by fear of inconvenience or loss." We commend this august counsel to the Lancashire Insurance Committee, who for the sake of a paltry saving have acted with gross injustice to men who freely risked their all in the service of their country and their King.

A DISGRACEFUL EPISODE.

HOUSEHOLD LEFT SIX MONTHS WITHOUT WATER.

At Cheltenham the Corporation recently summoned a householder for non-payment of her water-rate, although, as was clearly shown, the water had never been laid on since the commencement of her tenancy last March. Moreover, it appears that the summons upon which the tenant was haled to the Police Court and ordered to pay within a month related, not to the house occupied by her, but to the premises next door. Apart from these gross irregularities, it is evident that all through the piece the poor woman had been unfairly victimised. With an invalid husband and several young children depending upon her for support, her object in renting the house was to earn a living by letting lodgings, and before signing the tenancy agreement she had an understanding with the landlord's agents that all necessary repairs should be executed. However, on taking possession, she found that the water had been cut off, and she was informed by the Sanitary Inspector that the Water Department declined to furnish a supply until new and expensive apparatus had been installed. Although possessed of ample power to compel the owner of the premises to execute this necessary work, the sanitary authorities appear to have taken no further action, and for nearly six months this unfortunate family, having nowhere else to go, were compelled to live in the heart of Cheltenham without a drain of water, except what could be borrowed from neighbours for the most elementary requirements of decency and health. It is not surprising that several members of the family have suffered from diphtheritic throats; indeed, if they had not done their best to grapple with the circumstances, the whole district might have been ravaged by an epidemic of disease. Unable to let apartments in the absence of a water supply and thus robbed of her means of livelihood, the unfortunate woman is now ordered to pay within a month the rate for water she has never had a chance of using. The whole episode is a disgrace to the town of Cheltenham.

DREAD OF THE AGED SEAMEN.

AFRAID TO GO HOME TO THE COLD.

The Royal Alfred Aged Merchant Seamen's Institution meditates an act that appears, to put it mildly, unkind. The aged seamen benefited by the Royal Alfred were for forty years provided with a home in the Institution at Belvedere, near Woolwich. The place is on high ground, and in winter is exceptionally bleak and cold. But each old man had a "cabin" separately fitted up for himself, and all managed comfortably. In 1916 it was imperative to find sleeping room for munitioners, and the old seamen were transferred to the Trafalgar Hotel Greenwich. So much accommodation was needed at the Institution that the cabins had to be dismantled, the whole interior was pulled down, and cubicles were run up for the munition workers. In the winter the usual cold spell was felt so much by them, that the women were allowed to find other lodgings in the neighbourhood. The latest news is that the ancients have now received notice to return to their former quarters. If they could have their cabins once again there would be joy among them, and we ask the Committee of the Royal Alfred Institution whether the interior of the place cannot be put back into its previous condition.

TRAPPED BY TEMPERANCE.

THE WHISKY SPOTTER IN A DRY LAND.

In the police court at Toronto, one day in August last, the counsel for an accused woman declared that the Ontario Temperance Act "works more iniquities than any statute ever placed upon the books of a free country." The woman was a Russian immigrant deserted by her husband, and in the police court three bare-footed children clung to her ragged skirts. She was charged with supplying some "alcohol in a pop bottle." Her story was that she knew the "buyer" as a friend and neighbour. He entered her miserable room and asked her to oblige him with some whisky. She gave him a little in the pop bottle; he threw a dollar on to a chair and bolted with the bottle. In rush the police and arrested her, the money s lying on the chair. She was fined 200 dollars, or three months' imprisonment. Shrieking, she was haled to the cells, her children, wailing, clinging to her until dragged apart by the matron. It is a sorry, sordid picture of how a temperance law is worked when a country "goes dry."

"KIND, KIND AND GENTLE IS SHE."

A STORY FROM SINN FEIN CORNER, TEMPLEMORE.

On a bitter cold night a few weeks ago, a party of British soldiers were on special duty at Sinn Fein Corner, in Templemore, Ireland. Round about 12 o'clock a woman appeared with some cut bread-and-butter and tea in her hands. These she gave to the men, and then went away. "We thought this a very kind action," says one of the soldiers, "but it was not until later that we heard who she was and the tragedy of her life. Her husband, Edward Brown, a soldier serving in the Dublin Fusiliers, was murdered early in 1915. The murderer got off with nine months' imprisonment, and the people of Templemore supported the miscreant's wife and children while he was in prison. By contrast, this poor widow was given a pension of 15s. a week wherewith to support herself and seven children. Fortunately, four of them are now at school away from home. Mrs. Brown is not entitled to handle a single ha'penny of the 15s. She is simply allowed to go to a certain shop and receive 15s. worth of goods weekly. Yet she was good and kind enough to spare from her allowance of food a midnight meal to cheer and comfort British soldiers." Let us hope there are brighter and happier days in store for Mrs. Brown than those she finds in Templemore to-day.

THE MORAL OF

A Stupid and Wicked Thing—A Practical

By THE ED

IT is just eleven months since, at eleven o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of last year, I was at the Board of Trade talking to the then President, Sir Albert Stanley, when the maroons boomed forth the news that the Armistice had been signed. We shook each other warmly by the hand. "And now," said the President, "we can get on with the country's trade." And notwithstanding that since that day no single shot has been fired, and that the Peace Treaty has actually been signed by Britain—many of the principal factories have been closed down, the railway service, such as it was, being worked mainly by volunteers, the whole industrial life of the nation in a state of stagnation—and we waited long with bated breath to know whether the transport workers and other Trade Unions were to join the railway men in a general strike. At last we know that we are granted, by the grace of Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., and Mr. "Bob" Williams, a respite from our commercial purgatory, and that by their kind permission the British Empire may resume for a time its normal life. You notice I say "for a time." Don't let us be led back by any patched-up peace into the fool's paradise in which we have been living for the past twenty years—ever since, in fact, Trade Unionism came into active being. Nothing is further from my intention than to suggest that the workers of the country should not be allowed to organise themselves for the furtherance and protection of their trade interests. Nor should they be deprived of their inherent right to decline to work for an unjust employer. Such, indeed, is the natural right of every citizen of a free country.

Prohibit Lightning Strikes.

But, like every right, it must be governed by one paramount condition—and that condition is that its exercise must not inflict more than the inevitable minimum of injury upon the State. And by "the State" I mean you and me. But some harm to the public weal—whenever any industry is interrupted—is unavoidable; and when that industry has relation to one of the essential public services the mischief is, of course, enormously increased. All this notwithstanding, however, the workman must not be robbed of his freedom of contract in regard to his labour. What, then, are the limitations which should be placed upon that freedom? Obviously, as I have said, it should be regulated by a regard to the general happiness and welfare of the community. In other words, lightning strikes, as they are called, should be prohibited. Due notice should be given to the public of any threatened stoppage of work—in order that, pending the adjustment of the dispute, it could make the best arrangements possible in the circumstances to minimise the effects of the strike. I know I shall be told that, were such a rule enforced, much of the virtue—if in such a connection that word can be used—of the strike weapon would be gone. "We must upset the whole machinery of national life, and cause the maximum amount of discomfort and danger to the public," says the callous and cynical Labour "leader." Indeed, during the past week, Mr. Cramp (appropriate name!) and others openly gloated over the "creeping paralysis" of British trade as a favourable omen of their success.

A Stupid and a Wicked Thing.

Now I am all out for the British workman. As I said last week, I am with him and for him all the time—and am of him. Indeed, I should like to know of anyone who puts in more hours of strenuous labour than do I; whilst most of my education has been acquired in the great University of Life—with the result that, through this journal and by other means, I have been honoured with the confidence of what are called the working-classes to a degree greater, I believe, than that possessed by any other public man. And my whole life is dedicated to the one object of making things better and brighter for them—of driving away the drab monotony of their existence and winning for them something of the world's joy and happiness. But I am no sycophant towards them, any more than I am towards King or other powers-that-be. And I do not believe in fooling them, nor do I care a damn if at times I offend them. We soon shake hands and make friends again. And to-day I tell the railwaymen, without any beating about the bush, that they did a stupid and a wicked thing. Last week I exonerated them to a large extent from blame because I knew that they had been deceived and misled by their so-called leaders. But working men in these days have no right to allow themselves to be fooled and misled. The railway workers knew that their industry was essential to the life of the nation, and it was their sacred duty, before coming out on strike, to have found out exactly what the position was, to have insisted upon an opportunity of considering the matter from every point of view, and in the meantime to have kept the train services going, and ultimately to have claimed the right to a ballot on the acceptance or rejection of the Government's offer. In clothing their leaders with a power more autocratic than that ever possessed by the Czar of Russia, they are forging a weapon for their own destruction. The utmost authority which should be claimed by the Executive of any Trade Union should be the right to *advise* a strike—leaving the decision to the men themselves. "Calling them out," as though they were a gang of slaves or a drove of cattle, is an insult. Besides, if a handful of Trade Union officials are entitled to "call out" all the workers of the country, how can they complain if the Government, which is charged with the defence of the realm, "calls out" the military—the one thing which, more than anything else, it is desirable to avoid in connection with industrial disputes? And in this relation I am glad to observe, as a last step before resorting to so distasteful a measure, the Prime Minister called for a citizen army, although there was something horribly ugly about the notion of one section of the community banding itself together for protection against another. Yet, what else could be done? As I said last week, the strike has been a splendid object-lesson for the workers in the "blessings" of Nationalisation. Fighting the State is something very different from fighting a private employer, and perhaps after recent experience we shall hear less about the nostrum of Mr. Smillie and his friends. I wonder whether the strikers themselves realise how much they were indebted to the "blacklegs" who carried on during the trouble. As the *Evening Telegram* put it in a splendid article on Sunday, but for these "blacklegs" the strikers would have found themselves in a sorry plight for food and other necessaries.

> *"A million British s*
> *down their lives that*
> *workers should lay dow*

A Practical Object Lesson.

And that reminds me of an incident which is reported to me by a reader who witnessed it, at a London eating-house, the other day. A party of "strike delegates" came in for "high tea." They ordered eggs and bacon, but were told they could have the bacon, but no eggs. Then, when the tea came, they were informed that no sugar could be served. Resigning themselves to their fate, they proceeded dolefully to discuss the meal, when a couple of railway volunteers came in and gave a practically similar order. To the surprise of the delegates, both eggs and sugar were served, and upon inquiring the reason, the proprietor remarked: "Well, you see, the shortage is due to the strike, and we keep what we have for those who are working, as they must keep their peckers up!" A good job the "blacklegs" did not make such invidious distinctions! Otherwise there would have been hunger in the homes of the railway workers, and much suffering among their innocent women and children. No, there were no reprisals! To come, then, to the point. We must have no more lightning strikes in any trade, whilst, as regards the essential services of the country, the strikers must give due public notice of their intention, and be content with what I have called the minimum inconvenience

OF THE STRIKE.

ical Object Lesson—Partners in the Empire.

HE EDITOR.

inflicted upon the community. But, above all things, there should be no strike in *any* trade—and most certainly not in the essential ones—except upon the direct vote of all the members of the Trade Union affected. And such vote should be taken by ballot, under the same safeguards as those relating to political elections. That is true democracy. Why, even one of the strike leaders the other day admitted that had there been such a ballot the men would not have come out! Talk about autocrats—there is no autocrat like the democrat in power! One may well apply to such jacks-in-office what Shakespeare said of people clothed with a little brief authority playing such fantastic tricks before high Heaven as make the angels weep. So, please, my good fellows, all strikes in future must be regulated by ballot. As the *National News* puts it: "The direct vote is the only real safeguard against the peril of 'direct action.'" Given that vote, we should have very few strikes. Public opinion is always on the side of justice, and the period required for the taking of the ballot would allow ample opportunity for discussion and negotiation. And, after all, better use can be made of Trade Union funds than in paying out miserable doles to strikers. But even these doles cost a lot in the aggregate, and unless the Union funds were kept in a liquid form they would soon automatically cease—whilst a general strike of a few weeks' duration might easily mean the bankruptcy of every Trade Union.

Not to be Fooled Again.

I don't want to repeat what I said last week about the workers' duty to the dead, but I do feel very strongly on that point, and so do many of the fighting boys now home, and who witnessed tragedies of the kind I pictured. Here is what one says: "I look back to the days when white men fell in dozens, but they never talked of any strike but one—'Strike Jerry, and strike damned hard.' Are we, whom God has spared to come home—are we to think that our pals 'went West' for such rotten-to-the-core happenings as we see to-day? I for one feel bitter and revengeful, and there are many more like me. Can we be blamed?" And I have had many letters, too, from railwaymen who have returned to work, and also from railwaymen who, despite the Strike, were actually assisting in the dumping of foodstuffs in Hyde Park! Altogether, the whole thing was a sorry mistake. The men were fooled—but they must not be fooled again.

sh soldiers did not lay that a million British down their tools."

Government Not Without Blame.

And now a word with the Government, who in this case are in the position of employers. They, too, have not been free from blame. They ought to have taken the public into their confidence while negotiations were going on; they have apparently been in progress ever since February last. What was Parliament told about them? Not, so far as I remember, a single word. We adjourned, in August, in blissful ignorance of the cloud that was gathering. Ministers were too busy rushing through the Peace Treaty, and a variety of measures connected with that new world of which the Prime Minister, a few days before the Strike, was preaching at the City Temple, when all the time the grim spectre of Social Anarchy was stalking the corridors of Whitehall. Perhaps they didn't see it. They were so absorbed in "high politics"! They would not see the necessity of summoning Parliament—the holidays of the hard-worked Party hacks, who are thoroughly exhausted with their eternal tramping through the Division Lobbies, must not be curtailed, or, at any rate, not beyond a very few days. Nor was there any necessity for the Government to make its offer to the men "definitive"—by which, I suppose, they meant final. There was plenty of time for further negotiation, and we have no right to urge this argument against the strikers without at the same time applying it to the other side. Another mistake, in my opinion, was the withholding of the week's pay, which the Government, following the example of the Railway Companies, was keeping in hand. I know I shall be told that this was a kind of insurance against a breach of contract in the event of the men leaving work without notice—and if I were satisfied that the men themselves had deliberately authorised the strike, I am not sure that I should have objected to the forfeiture. But, in all the circumstances, I think it was a small thing to punish the wives and children for the wrongful action of the men's leaders. And I urged that view upon the Prime Minister. Here is a letter I wrote him, on the Friday of last week:—

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER,—*Let me implore you not to persevere in the policy of withholding from the men the week's wages you have in hand. True, they have broken their contract, but they have been fooled and misled throughout by their so-called leaders—and I think it would be a kindly act to save them and their families from the hardships which the withholding of the week's pay will involve, and that such act would go a long way towards convincing them that the attitude towards them of the Government, as representing the public, is one of sympathy rather than of anger. You have yourself declared that the average railwayman is a decent, honest chap—and, after all, his war record was a fine one, wasn't it?*

Give them their week's wages, and tell them it is their sacred duty to return to work, whatever their leaders may say. I do not believe they will disappoint you.

After all, the State is a very big employer and its methods should be big. And when dealing with the forces of revolution—however incipient in their stage—it is sound policy and good statesmanship to avoid all sources of irritation. Good temper on both sides is one of the first conditions of successful negotiation. So much by way of criticism of the Government's methods. Now what is it going to do to prevent a recurrence of this trouble in future? The country will undoubtedly look to it, when Parliament *does* meet, for prompt and decisive action. There must be no more parleying with Labour men "behind the Speaker's chair." We must have open, unfettered discussion—and no secret diplomacy. We have had our Foreign Peace Treaty; now we must have one for Home.

Partners in the Empire.

As long ago as last February, I warned the Government of the general industrial unrest, and urged that the time had come "for a complete revision of the whole relations between Capital and Labour, and for the setting up of new machinery for adjusting all the differences and disputes in the future." I went on: "What we want is that, contemporaneously with the World Peace Conference sitting in Paris, there should be convened at home an Industrial Peace Conference, to which representatives from all the Capitalist and Labour organisations should be summoned for a full and free interchange of views and the drafting of a measure setting up a new Department of State, armed with plenary powers to settle all questions hereafter arising between employers and employed—regulating wages, limiting profits, and giving workers a fair share of any surplus wealth produced by the union of honest Toil and properly-directed Enterprise. Not a day should be lost in convening that Conference. But, concurrently with it, we should have a well-organised and intelligent system of propaganda amongst the workers." To every word of this I adhere. I have proved a true prophet; and if there is one outstanding moral of the Strike now happily ended, it is that the workers should be made real partners in the State, sharing in full the responsibilities, and enjoying the privileges, of British Citizenship. And surely it is time we seriously entered upon a peace propaganda at home. Until all the workers, Capitalist and Labour alike, realise the need for a common understanding—a real Industrial Brotherhood—this land of ours will never be a land "fit for heroes to live in."

In giving publicity on this page to the views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes and letters must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

Letters for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of communications and replies to other letters—selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag," page 11.

Industrial Conscription.

Why not have industrial conscription? Employers and others know that the apprentice of three years' standing is the equal of a journeyman—except in wages, which is where the employer scores. Had every male in Britain served a compulsory three years' apprenticeship at some trade or other (*sans* the obligation to remain there), there would have been no shortage of skilled labour during the war days, no question of the present day strike against the employment of disabled and demobilised men, and no need for our politicians and "excess-profit" employers to cry out "Increase the Output."—WALTER BUCHAN, Robertson Street, Greenock, Scotland.

(*Our correspondent forgets that any Government which suggested anything in the shape of industrial conscription would incur the displeasure of—Mr. Thomas and his friends.*)

"Above the Law."

Recently His Hon. Judge Mulligan, K.C., delivered an important reserved judgment in an action brought by a munition worker against the Minister of Munitions, claiming £23 odd subsistence allowance. The Ministry admitted its inability to displace the evidence of facts, but disputed the claim on the ground that the Ministry is "above the Law." This claim the Judge denounced as a "negation of natural justice," but unfortunately this monstrous and dishonourable plea stands good legally and the Judge was compelled to give judgment for the defendant.—H. P. PALMER, Caernarvon Road, Norwich.

(*A hard case, and some day we must get this stupid maxim of the law abolished, although the point is a very technical and difficult one.*

A Tip for the Chancellor.

At auction sales lately, I have seen thousands of lots knocked down at £2 and over, but no receipts are given to the purchasers. In any other business a stamp must be affixed for £2 and over, and yet auction rooms where thousands of pounds are spent, are exempt. If the auctioneers up and down the country were made to give stamped receipts for all amounts of £2 and over, the revenue would get big sums annually. Why should they be exempt?—C. W. MEAD, Orford Road, Upper Norwood.

(*Another anomaly of the Law, which is undoubtedly, as Mr. Bumble said, "a ass."*)

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mrs. B. Smith.

Commandeered Schools.

During the war many Council schools were commandeered and turned into war hospitals, with the result that children could only go five half-days a week to other schools. The children have lost a lot of education, but nobody begrudged the schools being used for our Tommies. A number of these buildings have been given up, yet nothing seems to be done to convert them into schools again.—WILLIAM LEWIS, Comet Street, Adamsdown, Cardiff.

(*What, then, is being done with the buildings? Surely they are not lying idle?*)

"The Greatest of These."

With Winter almost upon us, if all kind readers of JOHN BULL would promise 6d. per week per head until Christmas to help this Fund, "The Greatest of These," it would lighten the heavy lot of many. I suggest some nights sit by the fire-light and so save gas, and when able to walk do so in place of riding on tram or 'bus. The amount of pennies thus saved would make many poor maimed heroes and other poor folks' lot easier. I was left a War Widow with four children and found troubles shared takes off half the burden. If we all would think less of our selfish selves and more of our poorer sisters and brothers this world would be the better to live in! I send 1s. 6d. I have saved, hoping you will accept it for the Fund.—(MRS.) B. SMITH, Burnley Wood, Lancs.

(*A very noble and humane suggestion.*)

A Court of Women.

The case of the young girl Elsie Kathleen Smith raises the question whether such cases should not be tried by a Court of women. Too often it happens our treatment of the weaker sex is far too harsh, and the brute of a man goes free. With a Court or Jury of twelve good women and true, the man who dares to wrong an innocent girl and leave her to the tender mercies of a prison ward would be justly dealt with.—CHAS. BEATTIE, Newdyke, Annan, N.B.

(*We are heartily in accord with this suggestion. At any rate, there should have been a woman jury.*)

Advertising British Goods.

If small British firms could advertise their goods in foreign towns it would mean a big increase in the export trade of this country. The majority of them cannot afford to have an agency in every town where they are likely to do business, but a syndicate could be formed who would have agencies in every town of note, and who could, for a nominal charge, print advertisements in the language of the particular country, arrange for suitable sites for posters, or spaces in the newspapers, and supply trade information. It was done for British prestige, so why not for British trade? — F. M. BRICE, jun., Conington Road, Lewisham.

(*The question of combination on the part of small traders to cheapen and facilitate distribution is one of the greatest importance. It is a subject to which the Transport Ministry might well devote its attention.*)

The Street Stall.

Many discharged and disabled soldiers who have done their bit "out there," are now trying to do a bit more here with their open-air markets to help defeat the worker's greatest enemy—the profiteer. Yet in nearly every case when they fix their stalls, along come the police, and it is either move on or be taken in custody. Why not a "lightning" Bill or some national arrangement making all local governing bodies set aside a portion of the town for these men to stand with their stalls?—ERNEST C. HIGGS, Kenninghall Road, Clapton Park, London, N.E.

(*We suggest that magistrates generally should follow the enlightened example of Mr. Ralph Bankes, the Stipendiary Magistrate at the South West London Police Court, in regard to this matter, and refuse to convict unless actual, as distinguished from technical, obstruction can be proved.*)

Protection and Profits.

In order to maintain and improve the position of the working classes it is necessary to keep foreign products out of our markets by means of a heavy import duty. Existing industries must be fostered and new ones created. The great objection to this policy is that it allows manufacturers to make excessive profit at the expense of the consumer. To overcome this I suggest that manufacturers of "protected" articles should receive a fair percentage on the capital involved, say, 10 per cent., while profit in excess of that should be employed to reduce the burden of taxation.—A. E. NOBLE., Claremont Park, Leith.

(*A very desirable extension of the principle of the Profiteering Act.*)

BULL'S EYES.

Some humorous hits —and some misses.

Strike not, want not.

The motto used to be, "Strike only on the box." But this strike was off the box, and off the plate, too.

Of course you know the tune the Scotsman whistled when he had to walk to work? No? Well, it was "Any Lorrie!"

A Hackney cobbler charged somebody nine shillings for soleing and heeling a pair of boots. The dear sole!

The Food Commissioner for the Home Counties says some bacon is bad because it has gone through two heat waves. It is quite evident that the bacon supply has never been subjected to a brain-wave.

There were two funny headlines in a daily paper:—"Held Up in Her Own House. Woman Knocked Down by Masked Men." Suffering both ways at once, she badly needed a pick-me-up.

Gabriele d'Annunzio ("Gabriel of the Annunciation"), the Italian poet who has been fuming about Fiume, assumed the name of an angel to disguise his own more ordinary appellation. In war, he was a flying angel. Now, he is a fallen angel.

At Marylebone Police Court figured a professional pickpocket with ten convictions. The magistrate wondered why he had been granted 32s. a week Unemployment money. It's because a pickpocket is better out of work. To give him a bit from the public purse keeps him from picking the purses of the public. He is now doing three months' hard labour, so is in work, and the dole ceases.

The Y.M.C.A. opened tea-stalls to provide free tea for women tramping to and from business. But it was unkind to write up:—"Please drink quickly and pass on." No woman enjoys tea without a gossip, and a dash of scandal is a necessary ingredient.

When a man tells you he stands on his dignity, you will notice that he does not occupy a lot of space.

Overheard in a barnyard, eggs being 5½d. each:—
She (in fine feather): "I've laid three to-day."
He (a coxcomb): "My dear old chick-a-biddy, you have egg-selled yourself!"

There was some talk of a strike by our wives. But it would be doomed to failure. Too many blacklegs about.

There is a bright young shopman at the Stores who hates to turn money away. When a customer asked for Keats's Poems, he said at once, "Sorry, madam, were are out of Keats's Poems, but we have plenty of Keating's Powder.

The wooden effigy of Hindenburg, into which all Berlin drove nails, is being taken down and destroyed.
They set their idol up on high,
In glory they enwrapped him.
But nails and fame grew rusty, so
They took him down and scrapped him.

The first train into Great Yarmouth after the strike started arrived on Wednesday from Melton Mowbray. It contained only one passenger. He must have been either a "pie" or a bloatered aristocrat.

PRINTER'S PIE.

(*Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of each item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie."*)

"NUGGET LIBRARY."—"Penal servitude FOR LIFE was the sentence they received. Both DIED in gaol BEFORE THEIR SENTENCES WERE HALF SERVED."

"FARMER AND STOCKBREEDER."—"Mr. Roberts' filly was the champion and his COLT FOAL was the best MARE."

"DAILY MAIL."—"The service . . . ended with the Last Post and Reveille BLOWN by the DRUMS of the Irish Guards."

"LEICESTER MERCURY."—"Mr. Taylor moved: 'We pledge ourselves NOT TO WORK WITH ANY MEN who now remain at work UNTIL THEIR REMOVAL.'"

"HAYMARKET NEWS."—"The best time for planting . . . is FROM THE END OF FEBRUARY TO THE BEGINNING OF MARCH."

"SUSSEX EXPRESS."—"He was married, and WAS EXPECTING A CHILD. He was living with another gardener."

"IRISH TIMES" (advertisement).—"For Sale, Rover Car, 1916 . . . NOT BEEN USED FOR 3 YEARS."

"DAILY SKETCH" ("Beauty Hint" by Miss Teddie Gerrard).—"All the time I have been in Devonshire on a fishing holiday, I HAVE JUST WORN HIGH WADING BOOTS AND SWEATER AND NO HAT."

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheeseparing, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

In "Mess-Up":—Letters from Basra complain that old soldiers—some of them with service up till 1914—are refused demobilisation, while short-service men are being sent home. One communication states that the men curse somebody at the War Office because he has not kept his promises; and on the whole there appears to be the "making of a stramash" among the garrison.

Doing Nothing:—The French people ask why are we not taking our soldiers home—e and well they might. For instance, at th R.A.O.C. base at Calais we have a mob of nearly 3,000, exclusive of about 5,000 war-prisoner guards, who can find nothing to do.

Wilful Waste:—At Farnborough we find a large number of men in the R.A.F. who are awaiting early discharge. Two months ago they were issued new kit; and now, to their surprise, they have been measured for suits of the new "Air-Force blue." Economy!

Tommy Smokes:—We are pleased to have received an assurance from the War Office to the effect that the boys on the Rhine are now well supplied with English smokes—the shortage of which, we are assured, was caused by dock strikes on this side. Our point was that, although our canteens were starved, the local German shops were glutted with the goods.

A Query:—We have a complaint that in a Scottish War Hospital, a patient, who is paralysed in both legs, was so ill-treated recently to make him leave his bed that he lost his speech for two days. This drastic action is said to have been the result of an order by a Sister; and unfortunately the man's condition is now worse than it was before.

Not "As you Were":—The Rouen and Dieppe bases have been fused, and are under the command of a colonel, who expresses his displeasure that discipline has become lax as regards saluting and dress. Every soldier must in future wear puttees on all occasions, with the exception of clerks proceeding to or from their offices. We tremble at the contemplation of the French people's feelings when they see those clerks without puttees sneaking from their billets to their offices. Let us be done with this antediluvian Army nonsense!

"JACK."

Exiles in Norway:—The mine-sweepers in Norwegian waters appeal either for leave or to be sent home. We are with them, as we never could understand why German prisoners should be fattened in cushy English quarters instead of being compelled to go out and clear the mine-fields. The sweepers and other small craft men did spendid work for us during the war, being in the most dangerous places all the time, and they are deserving of good treatment.

Our Young Nelsons:—The young sailors of our fleet, who will, in the course of time, become our old "salts," grouse very legitimately about the scant leave granted to them. They are permitted to be ashore from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m., once a week. We believe in looking after the morals of our boys; but this scheme of leave is ridiculous. Why should the lads be officially denied the chance of looking into a picture palace or a music hall? We must remember that when they get leave they tell their pals of their treatment—which does not make for satisfactory recruiting.

From Hong Kong:—Sailors, like other mortals, will die, and must be buried with honours. Ratings at Hong Kong tell us that funerals there are by order carried out in the hottest hour of the day, with a four-mile march—and anybody who knows that Turkish bath, Hong Kong, knows what that means. Why not have the funeral parades in the cooler hours of the morning or the evening? We leave it to the "big bug" who sees to things out there to put the matter right. It is not one of sentiment alone.

Feed the Kids:—When the Government gives with one hand, it often takes away with the other. The boys training on the *Powerful* and *Impregnable* at Devonport are up against the short rations given them since the rise in pay was granted. We have consulted with a deputation of the boys down there, and as a result put it to Whitehall that growing youths carrying out duties that induce a tremendous appetite should be much better fed than they are. It must not be supposed officially that because the youngsters *are* youngsters they have not a kick in them.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of Discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

Want a Job?:—If you are on the look-out for a well-paid job, work your passage to Gibraltar, where big money is being thrown around. As an example, the Chief Engineer advertised for an office-keeper at 18s. a week of seven days, rising after ten years' approved service to 21s. The lucky candidate for the post was to live in quarters provided, a deduction of ten per cent. of his magnificent screw being made by way of rent! We trust that many men did not bark their shins on the Rock while rushing to fill the vacancy.

No Waste Here:—A man worked as a labourer at the Royal Naval Ordnance Depôt at Gosport and had the misfortune to be mixed up in an explosion. The poor fellow was totally blinded, lost three fingers of his right hand, and had the drums of his ears perforated. The pension granted was 19s. 6d. a week, afterwards increased to £1 4s. 4½d., the increment to last for only six months after the war. We must see to it that the case of this unfortunate fellow and his family is brought before the House.

Not the Club's Style:—A man left the hairdressing department at the Royal Automobile Club to serve his country, and after three years applied for reinstatement to the Old Bond Street hairdresser who runs the saloon, but was turned down. We want the Secretary or the Committee of the Club, to inquire if it is a fact that this scorned Badger's job is now in the hands of an alien who never did anything for us. We feel certain that they will respond.

At Short's Gardens:—If the authorities are in earnest about getting rid of more or less rich women and men and employing our discharged soldiers, they should visit Short's Gardens, where the R.A.S.C. are. In one room alone there are 15 married women, who apparently work for pin money, whilst one indispensable lady further ekes out a living by appearing on the halls nightly with her husband in a sketch. Short's Gardens are tucked in behind Long Acre; but if the zealous official investigator wishes for a guide, he may call upon us. Some time ago we made a similar complaint concerning the R.A.S.C. depôt in Newton Street. As a result, some of the ladies were removed from that place—to branches of the same service elsewhere!

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

[The object of our Fund is to relieve (a) the dependents of our Soldiers and Sailors; and (b) suffering amongst the people generally, preference being given to those, directly or indirectly, affected by the War. No genuine appeal is ever refused, and although we see to it that adequate proof is presented in every case relieved, no harassing or degrading questions are put to applicants. Will you please help? We gladly defray all expenses of administration.]

Among the cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

On the Beach:—A bluejacket on small pension, like so many more, cannot find work. He has a wife and four young children, who wanted food.

Starving:—The widow of a soldier who died while on class "W" reserve has not obtained a pension. With her three young children, she was starving when she came to us.

Boots:—A soldier's wife had three bootless youngsters. Her husband cannot find employment, and she is ill and unable to work. The family was in great need.

A Soldier's Distress:—A disabled soldier is about to enter hospital, and his wife and family—there are five young children—were on the rocks.

New Arrivals:—Nearly a dozen cases were brought to our notice in which ex-soldiers, most of whom cannot find work, were faced with maternity expenses and could not provide the necessary clothing for the new arrivals.

"The Starving Hero":—A discharged man has one leg and nine children. His pension is 17s. 6d. a week, and he has been promised work in three weeks' time. In the meantime, with his family, the man was destitute.

A Load of Trouble:—A discharged man, with a wife and four children who are under nine, succeeded in getting a man's job at boy's wages. The wife is about to present him with another olive branch; but in the meantime the necessary clothing, etc., was in pawn.

The Dead, Too:—In these hard times people out of employment cannot continue their club and burial societies' fees. They come to us when Death calls, and we look after their affairs at once. Each week, by means of subscriptions to the fund, we bury the dead. In one case this week we provided the funeral expenses of two children in one soldier's family. He was refused help by the Service funds.

A Shocking Case:—We also helped the man referred to above who was totally blinded in an explosion and has a pension of less than 25s. a week to keep himself and family.

A Special Appeal:—We would once more appeal to our supporters for cast-off boots and clothing for the very poor. Demands are very numerous, and are growing as winter approaches. It is not uncommon for us to be asked for five or six pairs of boots for a single family, and the requests for baby-clothing for yet unborn citizens of the Empire almost daily swell our mail bag.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(Active hostilities have ceased, but requests for help have grown in number and continue to grow. Please do your bit to assist us to meet these new demands, soldiers and sailors and their dependents having the first claim upon the Fund, though civilian sufferers are not forgotten. Every penny subscribed goes in relief, whilst the accounts in connection with the Fund are duly vouched by a leading firm of Chartered Accountants.)

"Memories of W. B. J. Problem, R.A.M.C.," 6d.; W. H. L. (Eastbourne), 2s. 6d.; "Ex. Sgt." (Islington), 1s.; R. W. B. (New Southgate), 2s. 6d.; E. J. (Upper Holloway), 1s.; H. S. C. (Devon), 4s.; J. J. B. (Preston), 2s.; A. F. (City Road), 2s. 6d.; "A Mother's Gratitude," 2s. 6d.; "In Memory of Pilmsoll," 2s.; G. F. F. (Charlton), £1; John Ruskin Band of Mercy, Sheffield (per Mrs. D.), 10s. 6d.; "Bath," £1; Mrs. M (Manchester), 10s.; J. W. W. (West Norwood), 10s.; L. M (Preston), 1s. 3d.; S. B. (Hounslow), 3d.; "Widow" (Wimbledon), 1s.; "In Memory of Willie B.," 5s.; G. T. (Swindon), 10s.; G. F. P. (Bath), 1s. 6d.; W. B. W., 1s.; "In Memory of Bruce," 2s. 6d.; A. C. W. (Southport), £1; W. H. B., £1 1s.; J. C. (Pembrey), £1; "Anti Yank Stuff," 10s.; H. R. (Sheffield), 1s.; F. Y. (Hull), 1s.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

FINANCIAL NOTES—AND ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

By Our City Editor.

The Stock Exchange and the Crisis.

Throgmorton Street is in a curious condition. All dealings are for cash, there is no bear selling, consequently the House stands up against quite serious troubles with hardly any difficulty. The great strike produced practically no slump at all. This shows how preposterous the system of dealing is. Suppose, which God forbid, that the strike goes on for three or four weeks, clearly no one will want to buy or sell stocks and shares, and no dealers will want to make prices; therefore we shall get an entirely fictitious market; quotations will be at a figure at which no one can do any business. The sooner we go back to the old habits the better. The bear is a very useful animal; he always comes in at the bottom and steadies the market.

Argentines.

I repeat my advice to buy all Argentine Railways. First of all Traffics continue to increase; secondly, the Argentine is prosperous; thirdly, and perhaps most important of all, the Yankees are buying.

A Tip.

There is not much to go for in the Iron and Steel Market, but Baldwins are talked higher, and an exchange from South Durham, which are too high to this share, which is too low, should, in my opinion, be profitable.

British Controlled Oilfie'ds.

I have now ascertained that amongst the Central American properties to be acquired is the Buchivacoa Concession in Venezuela, which adjoins the properties of the Venezuelan Oil Concessions soon to be merged in the Shell Transport group. I am told that complete drilling machinery for three wells has already reached the Buchivacoa property, but results have not yet come to hand.

EASTERN AKKIM.

About ten years ago a quite respectable Promoting Company, called the Cedar Syndicate, acquired various concessions in the Gold Coast Colony, about 60 miles north of Accra, and sold these to a Company of the above title with a capital of £20,000. It had not been established long before it sold 3,200 acres of alluvial to the Asiakwa Alluvial Syndicate for £2,000, and a share in the profits. Eastern Akkim was floated in 1910, and its "pup" was born as far back as December 6th, 1911. Whereupon we search our records for dividends. But, alas, there are none! The Asiakwa had a small hydraulicing plant at work in desultory style, and I think that during the whole of its career it cannot have treated more than 180,000 cubic yards of gravel, and I do not believe that its gold output exceeds 300 ounces.

Eastern Akkim and its offshoot, the Asiakwa, were forgotten. The War came to an end. The Stock Exchange was crying out for some new gamble; someone still remained in charge of the derelicts, and by great good luck tumbled up against the Meyerstein group. A deal was fixed up. The new group formed a Company of £50,000 in 5s. shares, amalgamated the two old concerns, and wonderful stories of millions of cubic feet of payable stuff were put round the House. The 5s. shares became 40s. Hydraulicing could not pay a dividend on the £7,000 put up by the Asiakwa; how can it pay the new Company on a capital of £50,000? The wildest statements are made in the newspapers as to the prospects of the enterprise. It is therefore necessary to warn our readers that there is no justification whatever for such a statement as, for example, that there is a profit of 2¼ millions sterling in sight.

FINANCIAL REPLIES.

(All inquiries must be accompanied by a postal order for 1s., and bear the full name and address of correspondent as evidence of good faith.)

D. O. (King's Cross).—*British Burmahs:* The 8s. shares are now worth about £2 10s. each. You can only sell through a stockbroker. I have sent you the name of one who will do the business.——J. K. M. (Glasgow).—*Reliance Fuel:* I regard the shares as decidedly speculative.——A. H. H. (Claremont Sq.).—The only possible way would be to commute the annuity for a cash payment, but it would be a ruinous transaction and I do not recommend it.——Uneasy (Wood Green).—Don't worry; keep your War Bonds, which are quite all right.——F. W. P. J. (Erdington).—*Bongwelli Tin* is not very promising, but I think you might hold a little longer as the market is moving in your favour. Messrs. Davies & Co., 23, Finch Lane, E.C., will supply lists of bond drawings at 4s. per quarter. Name of a stockbroker has been sent to you.——J. T. (High Wycombe).—*Anzac-on-Sea:* This concern was exposed in the Courts some time ago. I am afraid you must regard the money as lost.——R. C. (Norfolk).—*European Oilfields, etc.:* All these companies are extremely speculative and the prospects are not very bright. At the same time they all have a *chance* of improving and for all they would realise at present I think it would be better to hold.—— A. W. (Leytonstone). — *Charing Cross Bank:* Most of the resources were locked up in a Canadian Railway scheme which has never paid its expenses. The Liquidator, I believe, has been trying for years to get an offer for it, but there is no prospect of success in the near future and any further dividend is extremely problematical.——F. F. W. (Roth).—*National War Bonds:* Allowing for redemption these yield about 5½ per cent., which is as much as you can expect to get with absolute security. *Victory Bonds* with the chance of drawing a 15 per cent. bonus are also attractive.——X. Y. Z. (Fulham).—*Isle of Man Steam Packet:* The company is in a strong financial position and doing well, but if you have a good profit it is seldom wrong to take it. In my opinion there is not much risk of a reaction in the immediate future.——Nescio (Trevangham).—*Brazil 4½ per cent.:* The price is low and the country has been more prosperous in the past year or two although it has been badly hit by the failure of the coffee crop. The finances are still in a rather insecure condition and if you contemplate a purchase you must be prepared to run some risk. If you already hold the bonds, keep them for the present.

JOHN BULL AT PLAY.

RACING, FOOTBALL, BOXING AND OTHER SPORTING NOTES.

Racing.

Coal shortage in Ireland is bringing about a restricted fixture list in the Emerald Isle. The effect will be that a large number of Irish horses will be raced in England this winter.

March Along, the best two-year-old in the Stanley House stable, has enjoyed a change of air at Kingsclere whilst the strike has been on. Don't miss backing him at Kempton Park.

Golden Orb has only to run well in the Duke of York Stakes, and this he is likely to do, to call attention to Dromlo's chance for the Cambridgeshire.

"Park" executives will not be lagging now that Messrs. Pratt and Co. are seeing what can be done to make things more comfortable for racegoers. Kempton Park will have to put its house in order in this respect after the evacuation of the military. We would suggest that a few garden chairs in their commodious paddock would be a great acquisition. We quite agree with an official contention that the public themselves want educating.

Mr. James White is to run both Ivanhoe and Gay Lord in the Cesarewitch, and Whalley and G. Colling are to be the jockeys.

Golf.

Exactly why the failure of Vardon, Braid and Taylor to survive the qualifying stage of the big golf tourney should have been magnified into a "sensation," coupled with the suggestion that the famous trio are now off the map, we cannot understand. Golf rounds are so calculated to be put out of gear by the infinitesimally little, that it is quite on the cards that all three would qualify were they put to a similar test to-day.

Sculling.

Riverside experts are evincing the greatest interest in the training of Barry and Felton for the Sculling Championship. Barry may more strictly personify the poetry of motion, but Felton's "workmanlike" methods and fine strength have made a deep impression.

WEEK'S RACING SELECTIONS.

Leicester—Wednesday.
Leicestershire Stakes—Clarion.
Midland Nursery—Star of Hope.
Camp Handicap—*Felim.

Leicester—Thursday.
October Plate—Rock Dew.
Bradgate Handicap—Divide.
Maiden Plate—*Trowbridge.

Kempton Park—Friday.
October Plate—Longerline.
Imperial Produce Plate—*Tetratema.
Coventry Plate—Zulanda.

Kempton Park—Saturday.
Vauxhall Plate—Mexican Eagle, if absent Hard Bake.
Duke of York Stakes—Chuette.
Kempton Park Nursery—*March Along.

Haydock Park—Friday.
October Handicap—William Allenby.
Newton Nursery—*Jaunting Car.

Haydock Park—Saturday.
Autumn Handicap—Main Royal.
Garswood Nursery—*Princess Margaret.

Football.

Whilst we were rather pleased to see most of the football clubs sufficiently ingenious to thwart the paralysing designs of the railwaymen on the first day of the lightning strike, we were not so well pleased with the determination subsequently to carry on in the face of the crisis.

Lawn Tennis.

Some criticism is being levelled against the Lawn Tennis Association for sending a team to Australia for the Davis Cup Challenge round without a properly constituted doubles pair. If they have made a mistake at all in a very difficult year, it has been the omission of Max Woosnam, the wonderful Cambridge all-round athlete. In doubles play he could give points to any of the three men selected.

Hockey.

The hockey world is mourning the passing of such famous clubs as Surbiton and Blackheath, the former of which was founded over 40 years ago. Happily, the majority of leading clubs have survived the war, and with the revival of the internationals, and the usual keenness at the Universities, the game is certain to take a new lease of life.

The Hockey Roll of Honour is a credit to the game, and among the famous players who fell were J. Y. Robinson, H. C. Boycott, A. I. Draper, R. G. Pridmore, H. G. Bache, R. W. Poulton Palmer, R. A. Hill, J. A. C. Croft, J. A. Lovell, C. H. Eiloart, H. J. Goodwin, L. F. Kendall, L. E. King-Stephens, J. D. Knowling, H. P. Hippisley, L. A. McKenzie, C. T. Morris-Davies, W. Kerr, H. S. Walker, and many others.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

"SARNIA" (Guernsey).—"I have always pictured you as 6 ft. high and the same in circumference below the waist line." We are under six feet up, and below the waist-line we have but two feet.

"REPATRIATED PRISONER OF WAR."—"Best of health and wishes to you and your staff, whom I can say deserve it." So can they, and they do. Every single one of them is bowing in your direction, with hand on heart.

J. W. (Sparstow).—"How can you tell oil paintings." All depends on what you want to tell them.

J. C. (Annan).—"Jackey Fisher claims that he Built and made the Kings Navee; But in a huff he left his job, And now he cries with many a sob, 'I'm damned if they believe me.'" Help yourself to another potato.

W. G. L. (Saroba, Nigeria).—"Is Pussy foot the catspaw of the tea, coffee and cocoa merchant?" All we care to say is, if that's the A.B.C. of the matter, then somebody ought to cast him to the Lyons or chase him Rown' trees until he Frys.

"WOULD BE" (Aylesbury) has made application since he returned home from the war for a 50-acre small holding, but seems "as far from getting it as ever." If only the strikers would settle down the Government might begin to settle up.

MRS. M. B. (Hove).—We said two girls could not get work, having no decent clothing and you say, "Utterly untrue; clothes are not of *any* importance." Well, would you engage a maid with none?

J. M. (Walsall).—"At Etaples alone there are lots of Waacs, kicking their heels with nothing to do." So they want to come home. Quite natural.

"ANONYMOUS."—"JOHN BULL is the paper, you bet." No, we don't. What, never? Well, hardly ever.

A. L. (Nottingham).—Fancy a State Department "indifferent even to M.P.s." Almost like turning up one's nose at an archangel, isn't it?

H. J. J. (Grenadier Guards).—We were not aware that women were "the downfall of returned prisoners-of-war." Hope you haven't tumbled.

H. L. D. (Kentish Town).—"I have read your article relating to the Home Office blunder." Thanks; we flattered ourselves that somebody would.

"BRITISH SUBJECT" (London).—You think with beautiful accuracy. The noble Briton, under the influence and patronage of H.M. Government, has commenced to trade with the hateful Hun.

MR. EDWARD BOTTOMLEY (Hull) is annoyed that so many people insist on calling him "Horatio." Why not get them to call us "Edward"?

A. B. (Birmingham).—"There is a man in our shop who speaks very bad English . . . and the women are going to set about him when the shop closes." Have mercy. He may be a Scotsman.

"DEMMOBBED."—"Who is the cause of all the waste which is going on? Why, the Government." And what is the cause of the Government? Why—

F. S. E.—"Pull devil, pull baker! Can't you get the devil to shake hands with the baker?" We could get the devil, but the baker objects to burning his fingers.

A. C. (Southampton).—"Seven years ago I started to write you a letter." And now you have brought your self-imposed task to a triumphant conclusion. "It's dogged as does it!"

H. J. B. (Hampstead).—If, as you say, the Middle Classes Union "may include peer or peasant," its constitution would seem to be wider than its title.

R. P. (Woking).—So you cannot find a house, although you have tramped "from pillow to post." Perhaps if you got clean out of bed you would manage better.

W. M. (Upper Brook Street, W.).—We note that, having been kept awake by the "mews," you have composed a stirring couplet. We do not, however, propose to infringe your copyright.

F. S. (Lewisham).—Your suggested "Candid Communication" has a brilliance of its own, but in our current issue you will find a several better ones.

"VERB. SAP."—Thanks for the "limerick." We have seen worse, if not much worse.

A. C. (Elham).—We note what you would do if you were a rich man. By next post kindly say what you are up to, being a poor one.

J. H. (Homerton).—"I stayed in Brighton last week." Cheer up, sonny; better men than you have missed the last train to Victoria.

H. H.—Unfortunately there is no list of "conchy" London tradesmen.

"BAD LAD" (Midford).—"I had my arm around her waist, but was promptly tapped on the shoulder by a top-hatted individual," And where did you tap the top hatted individual in return?

"HACKNEY" (London).—"Tho' dogs delight to growl and fight, Now all the world's in gloom, The man who was too proud to fight, Does not now dare to Flume." If you're not careful we shall tell Mr. Wilson what you say about him.

"LARRY HALL" (Mitcham).—We can can quite believe that police pensioners "have a struggle to make both ends meet." So have most people except acrobats.

"LILIAN" (Exeter).—Thanks for anagram. Last verse: "Better days you say will come, *U*nity has beat the Hun, *L*et us still with strength combine, *L*ove of truth must tell in time."

H. B. (Harlesden).—"Whitehall waste. Stop it, then hop it, or cop it!" Drop it.

"SEMPER FIDELIS" (Exmouth).—"During my peregrinations in France I acquired the foolish habit of soliloquising. Can you suggest a remedy?" Find a nice girl, and your habit will die a natural death. You won't be able to get a word in edgeways.

"DISAPPOINTED VICTIM" (Edinburgh).—"The boss of the Department has been lauded, while those who really did the work are victimised by being discharged." That's the way of the world, and, if we did not say so when you first wrote, it was not for lack of heart, but lack of space.

A. M. (Leeds).—We have constantly pressed the claims of Old Age Pensioners. If necessary, you should peruse our columns with the aid of a telescope.

"DIVORCE" (Aylesbury).—We should like particulars of the affliction which people are "planked into surreptitiously." Do they slip, or are they pushed?

"INDIGNANT W.A.A.C.s" (Rouen).—Sorry you are cross with us, dearies. We stand sweetly chidden.

"JUSTICE" (Kennington).—We have your letter sent "with a view to publication." The letter is filed, and the view has vanished.

MRS. F. (Upper Holloway).—"The King's Bounty for three babies, but nothing for two." Hardly worth while having them, is it?

"ADMIRER."—Agreed that "this sort of officialdom should be wiped out." Kindly fetch it a swipe as often as you think of it.

"ONLOOKER" (Watford).—So the little boy was thrashed "through a vindictive woman." Also through a thick pair of trousers, let us hope.

HAROLD C. BEESLEY.—A reader has sent us a Catholic Prayer Book, "The Garden of the Soul," which was picked up on a battlefield near Gaza, and contains above name, "from Mother, Christmas, 1913." Will any relative who sees this notice write to us?

E. F. (Bradford).—"Comment, I take is absolutely unnecessary." Right-oh. We won't say a word.

"DISCHARGED SOLDIER" (Salford).—"With my wife I took the baby to be christened, and he called it a little cross monkey." Who did? Every man should bear his cross—even a parson.

J. F. W. (Bridlington).—An Indian Mutiny veteran, 94, in Bermondsey Workhouse (happy, and won't leave), has been presented with a replica of his medal, lost long ago. As he said he would like "a drop of beer," the master (Mr. Butcher) has promised him a pint per day for life. A real good Butcher!

"POOR MOTHER" (Stratford-on-Avon).—The Government say the farmers must have the extra price to cover the production cost of the milk, and that if they don't get the extra price there will be no milk at all.

"FAIRPLAY" (Sydenham) wants to know why teashops should be subsidised in buying flour in order to sell bread to the public at 1d. for 1½ or 2 ozs., and cakes at 2s. 6d. lb. If we knew everything, we would tell him.

D. M. T. (Purley).—We're just a bit too busy to find out how high is "the level of the drain below road at halfway point between the two manholes." On a hot day your nose might tell you how "high" that drain is.

A. C. McD (Fleet Street).—"Co-operate with John Burns, form a Cabinet, with either of you as Prime Minister." When somebody coupled Whistler with Velasquez, Whistler said, "Why drag in Velasquez?"

J. M. G. (Willesden).—Thanks for your observations on the Fourth Commandment. At your leisure kindly favour us with your comments upon the 3rd and 5th.

"READER" (High Wycombe).—We agree that it is "the silliest thing out" for a landlord "to slyly poison a thriving tenant." It is not merely silly, it's rude.

E. H. (Balham).—You and the three children have evidently had a rough time. Our best respects to the "shortly to be a fourth."

G. E. G. J. (Melbourne).—We note that you could not buy a cake in Oxford Street after 9 p.m. But if you had invested in a pint of beer, you might perhaps have begged a biscuit to soak in it.

A. E. A. (Reading).—We note that because you have fallen out with a hotel proprietor, we are to publish a "skit" upon him, and post him a free copy. Any further commissions?

"ONE WHO KNOWS" (Boscombe).—If you were George Washington himself, we should have to have evidence of your assertions before publishing a paragraph. Don't look cross, now.

"INVERNESS" and OTHERS. Thanks for the information that Groote Schuur University—benefited by the *late* Sir Julius Wernher—is in South Africa, and was established partly as a memorial to Cecil Rhodes.

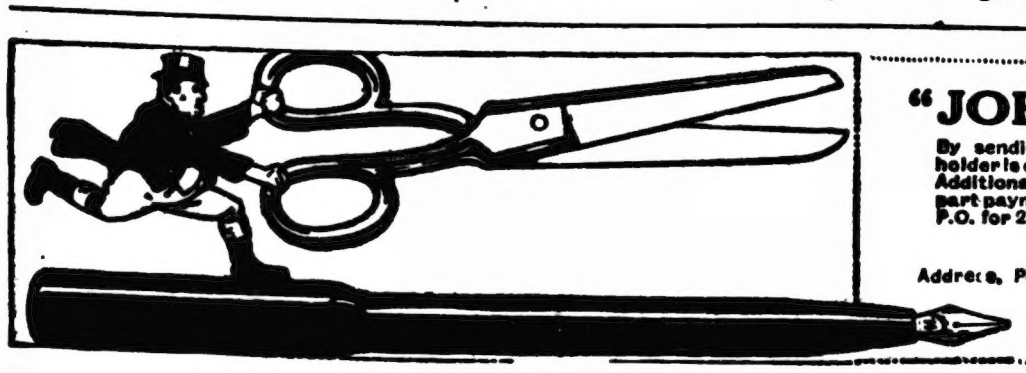
"RABBIT" (Chislehurst).—"When a rabbit burrows, where does he pull all the earth he removes?" He doesn't pull it. He pushes it.

E. L. (West Woodburn).—"Tell me of a firm who would cure a fox-skin." If the fox-skin is not well, perhaps a Vet would undertake the job. But don't ask your parson to curate.

W. E. MACKIE (West Ham) lost his war badge on rail between Plaistow and Aldgate. "Will give a small reward, as he is not too rich."

"A DESERTED MOTHER" (Belfast).—Afraid you cannot regain your baby without legal process. You say you have a solicitor. Surely he has told you what to do?

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)



CUT IT OUT!

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3s. and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons, and P.O. for 2s. only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1s. Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. (*Oct. 11th, 1919.*)

P.O.s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

☞ **Please note that in consequence of the strike "Bullets" Competition No. 349 remains open for another week, the closing date being extended to Thursday, October 16th.**

"BULLETS"

BIGGEST PRIZES £250 2ND PRIZE £20 3RD PRIZE £10

1ST PRIZE 1ST PRIZE

10 PRIZES OF £5	10 PRIZES OF £2 10	25 PRIZES OF 10s.	200 PRIZES OF 5s.	1,000 PRIZES OF 2s. 6d.	3,000 "TARGET" PRIZES.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Thirty examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the examples chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with **ANY** letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. This example will guide you: Example:—POSTPONED. Bullet:—WHEN ALL STRIKES WERE. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for this competition. If more coupons are used an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 349

WAKE UP ENGLAND	WINNING A THOUSAND	STRIKE PAY	LEADING THE ATTACK	THE NEW TRIBUNAL
WONDERFUL CHAP	ALL CORRECT	PICKING AND CHOOSING	TOMMY'S BIT	LESSON IN ECONOMY
A FRESH START	SHOUTING THE ODDS	TAKING GIRL	STOPPING TO THINK	MORE MONEY
AWKWARD SITUATION	STANDING BY	POSTPONED	HOLDING HER OWN	MOST PAINFUL WHEN
BROUGHT TO BOOK	BOLTING THE DOOR	NOW TO LET	UNEXPECTED	GOING TO POT
OUT OF OFFICE	BECOMING UNSTUCK	HER SMILE	HITTING OUT	WITHOUT DISCRETION

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, October 16th

Example_____

Bullet

Example_____

Bullet

(349) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If a coupon is used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.

Signed_____

Address_____

☞ IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No.____ Closing Date, Thursday, October 16th.

Example_____

Bullet

Example_____

Bullet

(349) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If a coupon is used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.

Signed_____

Address_____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No 349. "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 350.

TAKING NOTICE—MY FANCY—NO WONDER—IRISH POLICEMAN—LEAVING ENGLAND—SACK THE LOT—PLAIN SPEAKING—UNASHAMED—A FALSE START—SOMETIMES—FINGER IN PIE—GOTTOMLEY WOULD LIKE—LABOUR AGITATORS—GERMAN TRAVELLERS—WORK AND PAY—UNDER THE HAMMER—NOBODY BELIEVES—PETTICOAT INFLUENCE—MORE THAN ENOUGH—KNOWING TOO MUCH.

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, Oct. 23rd.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **350** in the top left-hand corner and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets" **No. 350,** "John Bull," Long Acre, London W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the Thirty examples for Competition **349.**

BULLETS RULES.

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed and Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.
4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.
5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.
6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

MR. C. P. HANCOCK, Clingre House, Crossway Green, Chepstow:
INCREASING OUTPUT—OF THEMATS—LABOUR'S MISTAKE.

MR. C. E. HILL, P.O. Staff, Minehead:
NEXT TIME — ENGLAND'S GLOVES OFF STARTING.

MR. D. SMITH, 33, Battersea Rise, S.W.:
BOUT KEPT QUIET—IN LABOUR MOVEMENT UNFORTUNATELY.

MRS. M. YATES, 40, Floral St., Covent Garden, W.C.:
DANGEROUS—STRIKERS WILL MAKE GERMANY. (Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon).

Complete List of all Cash and other Prize-winners can be seen at the Offices of "John Bull."

Result of 347th "Bullets" Competition.

FIRST PRIZE OF £250:

Mr. ARTHUR HOWITT, Oundle, Peterborough.

Example:—MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
Bullet:—MASTER "WORKING WITH" MEN.

SECOND PRIZE OF £20:

L/c MACDONALD, 63224, A. Coy., Tank Corps Depôt, Wareham, Dorset.

Example:—GOLD SHOULDER.
Bullet:—KAISER PREFERS TO "CHOP."

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

Mr. E. RUSLING, West Parade, Lincoln

Example:—HUGGING A DELUSION.
Bullet:—WOMEN "FOR DURATION ONLY."

10 PRIZES OF £5 EACH:

MR. W. BLANCHFLOWER, Churchfield Rd., Walton-on-Thames:
WHITEHALL FLAPPERS—NOW BUSY LEARNING TYPING.

MISS M. MILES, 23, St. Martins, Stamford:
A NEAR THING—TO BAD DEBT—INDEMNITY.

MR. A. S. GRANT, 5, Nelson St., New Seaham:
A FAIR SCORCHER—HER "FLASH PASS" INDICATES.

MISS J. RATBURN, 50, Church St., Royton, Lancs.:
ON THE WAITING LIST—WISE INVESTOR'S CAPITAL NOW.

MR. J. E. HESLOP, 208, Maine Rd., Moss Side, Manchester:
POCKET MONEY—WITH PRIDE—REAL WORKERS.

MR. A. E. BILL, 23, Marquis Rd., Stroud Green, N.:
PUTTING SCREW ON—DOESN'T ALWAYS "FIX" THINGS.

MR. A. CAVEY, "Bryn Eglwys," New Rd., Abbey Wood, S.E.:
STRIKER'S MOTTO—DOWN WITH OTHER PROFITEERS.

MISS M. YOUNG, 43, Albion St., Hyde Pk., London, W.:
PUTTING SCREW ON—STATING IT TO FRIENDS.

MR. A. GIBBS, Bishops Itchington, Leamington Spa:
UNPOPULAR—"BULLET". AFTER DODGING ONE.

MR. F. EDMUNDS, 6, Tanyard Cotts., Ogmbrook:
WHITEHALL FLAPPERS—"FIRST TO GO"—SICK.

10 PRIZES OF £2 10s. EACH:

MR. R. ANDREW, "Branksome," Chandlers Ford, Hants:
BUYING EXPERIENCE—DON'T LET'S BEGIN AGAIN.

MR. J. KIRBY, 19, Hawthorne Tce., New Earswick, York:
HUGGING A DELUSION—EACH RELIGION THINKS OTHERS.

MR. A. E. TIMPSON, 2, Chatsworth Rd., Parkstone:
OFFICIAL TALK—RE FORMS, NOT REFORMS.

MR. F. J. BROUGH, 70, Church St., Fenton, Staffs:
RUNNING STRAIGHT—ESCAPING CONVICT'S LAST THOUGHT.

MR. F. DEXTER, 38, Monton St., Moss Side, Manchester:
HUGGING A DELUSION—SATISFYING SOCIALISM WITH HALF.

MR. F. J. KENDALL, 25, Monmouth Rd., Dorchester:
RUNNING STRAIGHT—AFTER "MENDING OUR WAYS."

JOHN BULL'S GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE

COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE, AND LIMB.

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of age. **The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 5s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.**

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else. **A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.**

CONDITIONS.

This offer applies only to persons over 10 years and residing in, and properly situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

Any number of persons in one family may be separately insured provided an order for JOHN BULL is placed and a registration form is forwarded in respect of each person.

Claims, which must be confined to one of the benefits, must be received by us within three days of the loss or damage, and in the case of death such death must occur within thirty days, and as a direct and sole result of the injury.

Payment will be made subject to any rights which the claimant may have or acquire against, or under, any other Insurance Scheme, Company, or otherwise, and the Proprietors of JOHN BULL shall not be liable until the registered reader has exhausted his or her rights under such insurance.

This offer applies only to the dwelling-house, apartments, or dwelling rooms attached to business premises, of the registered reader, but, not to business premises or stock-in-trade.

We reserve to ourselves the right to limit our total payments under this scheme to £10,000, and to discontinue, or make any variation of this offer by the publication of notice in JOHN BULL.

The decision of the proprietors of JOHN BULL upon all questions shall be final.

In order to safeguard ourselves it is stipulated that a fire will not be recognised as such unless a call has been made upon the local Fire Brigade or appliance.

ORDER FORM

TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To .....Newsagent.

.....

Please deliver JOHN BULL to me regularly until further notice

Signed.....

Address .....

October 11, 1919.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM

Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address of home.....

Oct. 11, 1919

.....

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

WHAT WE WILL PAY

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to ...	£200
In Case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye ...	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his, or her, employment, up to ...	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks	£1 Per Week

£1,000

FOR AN ALL-CORRECT FOOTBALL COUPON!

£500 FOR A COUPON WITH ONE ERROR ONLY

£100 MUST BE WON IN ANY EVENT!

GREAT WEEKLY COMPETITION. NO ENTRANCE FEE

£2,000 WON IN 2 WEEKS!

IT MAY BE YOUR TURN NEXT.

Our £1000 prize has already been won twice. This week we are again offering the sum of £1,000 to the sender of a coupon containing the correct results of all the matches given on the coupon opposite. Should nobody succeed in forecasting the results of all matches given, £500 will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon with only one error. In the event of neither the £1,000 nor the £500 prize being won the sum of £100 will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon with the most correct results. This competition is open for one week, and coupons for it can only be taken from this week's issue.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL" AND COUPONS DO NOT APPEAR IN ANY OTHER PAPER.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO is to forecast the results of the matches, given on the coupon on this page, which will be played on Saturday, October 18th.

This competition is quite free, no entrance fee of any kind being charged. Competitors can send as many coupons as they like. Scottish and Irish readers may compete. The "National News" gives the most accurate reports and forecasts every Sunday, which should greatly assist competitors.

FIRST READ THIS.

If you think the Home team will win, place a X in the column headed "Home"; if you think the "Away" team will win, place a X in the column headed "Away"; if you think the result will be a Draw, place a X in the column headed "Draw." Only *one* X must be entered for each Match. Coupons *must* be written in ink.

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

(1) All attempts must be made on coupons taken from the issue of JOHN BULL announcing this competition. Coupons must be written in ink (typewriting or pencil will not be allowed), and must be filled up in accordance with the instructions given on this page.

(2) The sum of £1,000 (One Thousand Pounds) will be sent to the competitor sending a coupon containing the correct results of all the 18 matches. If no competitor succeeds in giving all the correct results, £500 will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon with 17 correct results. In the event of neither the £1,000 nor £500 prizes being won the sum of £100 will be paid to the competitor sending a coupon with most correct results.

(3) Should one or more than one of the matches not be played to a finish on the date given on the coupon, the £1,000 and £500 prizes will not be awarded, but the prize of £100 will be awarded to the competitor sending a coupon with most correct results.

(4) In the event of a tie or ties, the prize to be won will be divided between the successful competitors.

(5) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into nor will interviews be granted.

(6) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified.

(7) Our employees are debarred from entering this competition.

(8) Any coupons received later than October 16th will be disqualified.

(9) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Cut out coupon neatly and address all entries as follows:—"Football Competition No. 6, JOHN BULL, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2." Write "Football" in top left-hand corner of envelope. All coupons can be enclosed in one envelope, but this must not contain entries for other competitions. SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played Saturday, October 18th. Coupons must reach us not later than Thursday, October 16th.

Home Team		Away Team	1	X	2
Arsenal	v.	Everton			
Aston Villa	v.	Preston N. E.			
Bolton Wanderers	v.	W. Bromwich A.			
Notts County	v.	Derby County			
Sheffield United	v.	Burnley			
Blackpool	v.	Birmingham			
Hull City	v	Notts. Forest			
Stockport County	v.	Stoke			
West Ham United	v	Grimsby Town			
Bright'n & Hove A.	v.	Gillingham			
Newport County	v	Luton Town			
Norwich City	v	Merthyr Town			
Southend United	v	Plymouth Argyle			
Swindon Town	v	Exeter City			
Watford	v.	Brentford			
Aberdeen	v.	St. Mirren			
Hibernians	v.	Partick Thistle			
Rangers	v.	Celtic			

☞ Coupons must be cut—not torn out.

I enter "John Bull" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and I agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

SIGNED .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

6

FURNESS, WITHY & CO., LTD.

The twenty-eighth annual meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., was held on October 2.

Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—

You will observe from the balance-sheet that the profits for the year ended April 30 last, including the balance brought forward, and after making provision for excess profits duty, amount to £873,083 8s. 3d.

Out of this sum your directors recommend a bonus at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, calculated on the new ordinary share capital of the company. This, with the interim dividend paid, makes a total dividend for the year equivalent to 10 per cent., free of income tax, on the new capital. It is proposed to pay this bonus on October 31, when the next half-yearly dividend will also be paid. The recent increase in the capital is bound to have the ultimate effect of creating an increased number of shareholders, and the directors propose to revert to half-yearly dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the new capital, thus saving the additional work and expense involved in the quarterly distribution.

After making these alterations and carrying forward £129,583 8s. 3d. to next account, there is left a sum of £300,000 available for appropriation. It has been the custom of your directors for many years past to regularly appropriate out of the profits earned considerable amounts for depreciation. On the present occasion we have thought it desirable to recommend you to transfer the whole of this sum of £300,000 to the trades contingency account, increasing that fund from £700,000 to £1,000,000 sterling. In arriving at this decision, we are influenced by the fact that British shipping will be faced, in the not far distant future with competition of a very serious and very strenuous kind, and it would be the utmost folly to close our eyes to this.

In regard to the future, I think I can safely state that the results for the current year will not be less favourable than those we are now considering. Beyond that period I would not like to commit myself; but whilst I do not wish to minimise the serious competition we will have to face, I am not by any means doubtful of the ability of British shipping to hold its own, always providing freedom of control is allowed. Somehow or other I have confidence in the ultimate common sense of all sections of the community, and, notwithstanding the dark outlook at the present time, I have little doubt but that we will be able to hold our own and play our part in the restoration of the solid foundations of commerce.

The report was adopted.

THE FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER, AND RAILWAYS

An extraordinary general meeting of the above company was held at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C., on Thursday last, considering a resolution for the reconstitution of the capital of the company. The Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley, G.C.S.I. (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Chairman, in moving the resolution, said that at the last annual meeting he foreshadowed the introduction of a scheme for the rearrangement of the capital, and by a circular letter convening the meeting they would have seen set out at length the terms of the resolutions which they were asked to adopt. When the Forestal Company was formed, as far as the British public was concerned, it was a new venture, in which the vendor had, however, implicit confidence, and desired to take most of the purchase price in the ordinary shares. The shares offered to the public were, therefore, not only assured a minimum of remuneration, but given an interest in the profits of the company and a share in its future prosperity. That was why the share capital was divided into an equal number of preference and ordinary shares, the preference being entitled to 6 per cent. cumulative interest and 25 per cent. of the surplus profits. In 1912-1913 the acquisition of the Santa Fe Land Company and of the American company was negotiated, at which time the preference and the ordinary share capital was increased *pari passu* and the exact proportion of both classes of issued shares was maintained.

The scheme was agreed to.

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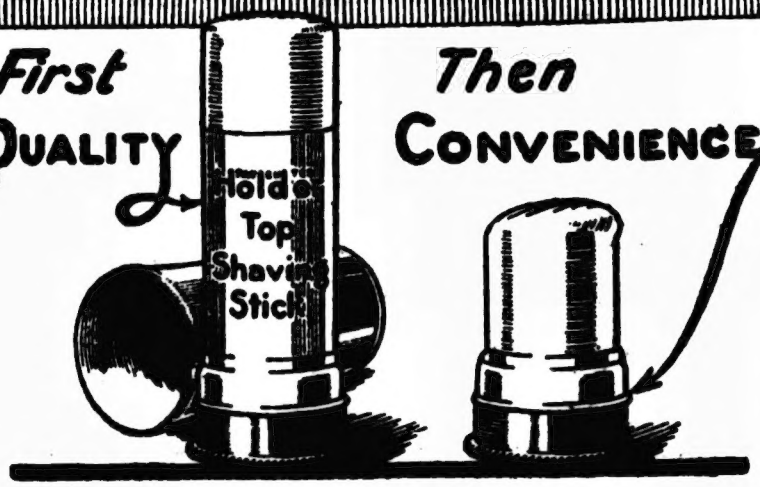

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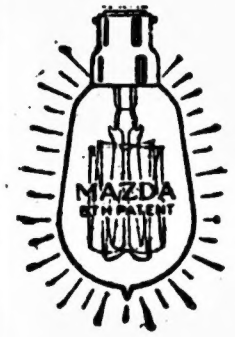

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